

Devotional Ring the bells

By Earl Kelly

While listening to a performance of an excellent bell choir a question came to my mind: "Who produced the very first bell?" In all probability the name is lost in antiquity.

Bells were around when Moses wrote Exodus. Moses recorded the minute instructions of God as to how the garments of the first high priest were to be made: "And beneath upon the hem of it thou shalt make pomegranates of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, round about the hem thereof; and bells of gold between them round about" (Exodus 28:33).

Later, the prophet Zechariah tells of a day when even the bells on the bridles of horses will proclaim Holiness. Zechariah 14:20 states, "On that day the very bells of the horses shall be inscribed with 'Sacred to the Eternal'" (Moffatt).

Bells have always been associated with important proclamations. There still rings in my boyhood ears the sound of a bells coming over the speaker of an old battery-powered radio and the voice of the town crier that announced, "Town meeting tonight! Town meeting tonight!"

One opens the door of a shop, and immediately a bell proclaims a presence of a customer to the store owner. Even at sea, the bells play a big peal. Have you ever heard the unceasing bell of a buoy as it is tossed about by the waves to warn ships of danger?

The school bell calls the children to study. The factory bell calls the employees to work. The church bell calls the believers to praise and prayer. An inscription on a very old bell states, "I mourn death, I disperse the lightning, I announce the Sabbath, I rouse the lazy, I scatter the winds, I appease the bloodthirsty."

Victory bells, Christmas bells, New Year bells, massive iron bells in ancient churches or castle belfries, majestic bronze bells in cathedral towers, tinkling bells, deep-toned bells — oh, there is no end to them!

The poets have written thousands of lines about bells. The south's greatest poet, Edgar Allan Poe, continues to fascinate me with his marvelous descriptive lines:

*How they tinkle, tinkle, tinkle,
In the icy air of night,
While the stars that oversprinkle
All the heavens seem to twinkle
With a crystalline delight.
Keeping time, time, time,
I'm a sort of Runic rhyme*

*To the tintinnabulation that so musically wells
From the bells, bells, bells, bells,
Bells, bells, bells —*

Tennyson loved bells, and in his "In Memoriam" has written much upon which we might meditate, especially at this time of the year:

*Ring out wild bells, to the wild sky,
Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow;
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true,
Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land;
Ring in the Christ that is to be.*

As the bells ring in the New Year, we all need larger hearts and kindlier hands. We will have them if we put Christ first in all things. The larger heart will cause us to love those God already loves. The kindlier hands attempt to lead as many of them to Christ as is possible.

Several months ago I had the privilege of preaching a very simple message on salvation in the First Baptist Church of Leningrad, Russia. At the end of the service two young adults made a public profession of faith. When the pastor announced their decision, the packed congregation immediately stood and sang:

*Ring the bells of heaven!
There is joy today,
For the wand'rer now is reconciled;
Yes, a soul is rescued from his sinful ways,
And is born anew a ransomed child.*

Earl Kelly is executive secretary-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Barclay's commentary has been published in Russian

LONDON, England (EP) — William Barclay's "Daily Study Bible" has become the first Protestant commentary to be translated into the Russian language.

The translation is complete, and 15 of the 17 volumes have been printed and are ready for distribution. Soviet authorities have granted permission to import 1,000 each of the commentary's first five volumes, according to

David Russell, a British Baptist who headed the Barclay Commentary Committee.

The seven-year translation project cost \$350,000 and was funded by the Baptist World Alliance, the Mennonite Central Committee, the European Baptist Federation, and the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists.

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, January 8, 1987

Published Since 1877

Career educators serve overseas with students

Jim and Mary Margaret Bennett of Jackson left Mississippi in August of 1985 for a year's service as volunteers with the Foreign Mission Board.

The career educators retired early to volunteer for foreign service and became directors of the Missionary Kid student home in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Jim, a school principal, and Mary Margaret, a teacher, were commissioned by their home church, Alta Woods in Jackson in August, 1985 and a few days later were living in a two-story Spanish home with three MKs. For a short while Ed and Linda Ables stayed there until they could find a house for ministry in Western Argentina. Then, the Bennetts were left with Becky Ables, Lori Allen, and David Witherspoon.

The Bennetts were kept busy "buying groceries, planning meals, cooking, keeping books, laundering, supervising two maids two days each week, and a gardener for one hour a week, supervising repairs and painting the beautiful 35-room house, planting grass seed, pruning, decorating with

hanging baskets and planters on the porch, and guiding the very intelligent, cooperative children," reports Mrs. Bennett.

Mrs. Bennett says that all three children have great potential. Becky Ables was valedictorian in her class at the American school and is now at Samford University. David Witherspoon was a salutatorian in his class and is now at Princeton University. His parents, John and Linda, are serving in La Paz and Mercedes where John is director of evangelism. Lori Allen, the daughter of Conservative Baptist missionaries, was inducted into the National Honor Society.

Prayer meetings were hosted at intervals at the MK home and several times Bennett led in the services. He taught Sunday School several times at International Baptist Church where Don Mines, serving with his wife, Margie, is pastor. Mary Margaret played piano there twice.

The couple had many opportunities to witness including visits to a nursing home, ministering to the needs of passers-by asking for directions,



Margaret and James Bennett

water and food, presenting the plan of salvation to a next-door neighbor and an electrician, praying with MKs about one of their teachers and her two sons who weren't Christian, sharing their mission responsibilities and opportunities with golfers at Lisandro de la Torre.

The results of an open witness came home. "From October 15-27, 1986, 80 volunteers from the Immanuel Baptist Church in Overland Park, Kansas, and missionaries from the Argentine Baptist Mission working in Buenos Aires and 50-250 miles surrounding it reported 1,000 professions of faith and 900 rededications, reports Mary Margaret. She adds, "In this effort the next-door neighbor and the teacher for whom the Bennetts and the MKs had been praying accepted Christ as their savior."

Also in October, the Bennetts were invited to a Returned Auxiliary Conference at the Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Md., "to help in shaping a better volunteer missions program."

Said the Bennetts, we "realized we had gone to give in Argentina, but we received with wells overflowing."



The Argentina MK home where the Bennetts served.

Good health for WMU predicted

By Karen Benson
BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Woman's Missionary Union might be on the verge of a "science fiction" future if current enrollment and financial trends continue, according to the national WMU president, Marjorie J. McCullough. Speaking in mid-December to staff at the national WMU headquarters, McCullough predicted "times like we have never thought of before."

WMU membership nationwide increased by an estimated 1.5 percent this year, bringing the total WMU

membership in Southern Baptist churches to almost 1.2 million.

WMU and church music enrollments were the only two church programs to show an increase in the 1986 year, according to just-released Southern Baptist Convention statistics.

WMU officials attribute the increase to the VISION 88 enlistment campaign, which is an effort to double WMU enrollment by the end of 1988, WMU's centennial year.

Additionally, the WMU national

\$500,000 surplus of revenue over expenses in the 1985-86 operating budget of about \$9 million — continuing WMU's history of operating "in the black," said Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of WMU, SBC.

By the organization's centennial date — May 14, 1988 — WMU expects to pay the entire \$6 million debt on the relocation from downtown Birmingham to New Hope Mountain on the outskirts of the city, including the new national headquarters building.

Less than \$3 million is still needed to pay off the debt.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

A new beginning

New Year's Day has passed, but this is the first issue of the **Baptist Record** for 1987. For a great many of us, it didn't seem that 1986 had really got started well before it was over.

But it is gone, so now we must concentrate on 1987.

New Year's Day is just another day of 24 hours, but we use it as a time of beginning again. We need that. We do the best we can to make our time meaningful, but we are always happy to have a new starting point. We feel we can do better.

We would do well to use some means of taking stock of 1986 to see if we can determine how we can improve upon the way we used our time. A new start will not be advantageous unless we are able to make improvements.

The Lord offers a new beginning. He makes it available in two cir-

cumstances. First is the availability of a new life. He has redeemed us, he has bought us back for himself; and this redeemed life, this new beginning, is available to us for the asking. The nature of our separation from him is so great that the redemption was bought at an awesome price, but the price has been paid.

The cost of our sin, or separation from God, is death, the Bible tells us, because there is life only with the Lord. To experience life we must only accept for ourselves the payment that has been made already, the death of Christ in our place.

It seems simple enough, but there are many who either fail to understand it or refuse to make it available for themselves. Thus we who have chosen to accept this redemption are called upon to explain it to others so that there will be no lack of

understanding.

But there is a second circumstance. Those of us who have accepted redemption still can fail to measure up to the price that was paid for it. In fact, we most assuredly will not measure up; but we are prone to wonder away from our standard from time to time. When that happens, we are able to confess that we have erred; and we can begin again.

In this new year we have a new beginning. It is incumbent upon us to make our lives count for the most we possibly can during this year.

And in that vein we at the **Baptist Record** once again wish to say to all who read these lines:

Happy New Year!

It will be a happy one if we live it well. May we use this time of new beginning to help us find the path of a fuller life in service to the Lord.

WITHIN HIS POWER



Pre-filed problems

Sen. Howard Dyer of Greenville died last month, and we would not in any wise seek to take away from his contribution to Mississippi's legislative proceedings. Before his death, however, he left his mark on future legislation in such a way as needs to be pointed out with the hope that his pre-filed SCR 502 might not find favor in this year's legislative session.

SCR 502 is a resolution aimed at amending the constitution in order to authorize a state lottery.

Movements that have a great deal of money behind them don't die easily. The prospect of a state-run gambling operation in Mississippi through

a lottery is a case in point. The considerable resources of the company that would provide the equipment and material with which to conduct the lottery in order to aid the tax revenues of the state keeps coming up year after year and getting beat. The hope is to wear out the opposition to a lottery and let it move in with a favorable vote.

There is no question but that there would be a profit from a state-run lottery operation. The company that would provide the stuff with which to run it would be the entity to make a profit. The state tax coffers would profit to some extent, but it would not be

worth the pain and not nearly what the promoting company declares that it would be. This last statement is a fact because there would not be nearly as many people participating as the company would try to say there would be.

Of course, when money goes into state coffers it has to come out of somebody's pocket, and in this case it would be people who could not afford it. They are the ones who would play the lottery because they need to get something for nothing, or at least for a very small investment. That's what a lottery promises, but its delivery ratio is pitiful. People who can afford to play the lottery don't do it because

they don't need to.

Another bill to watch has been introduced by Sen. George Smith of Gulfport. It is Senate Bill 2048, which would repeal the ban on advertising liquor. Dyer filed this bill every year before this one.

If there is anything that doesn't need to be advertised, it is liquor. People go out of their way to get a hold of that stuff without any advertising. The only purpose to be served by advertising is for one brand to compete with another, and that is not the business of the state to promote.

Of course, an underhanded purpose in such a condition is that the ads

become so attractive that people are influenced to drink. This is what the industry has in mind; and, if such a bill were to pass, the state would be helping to make drinkers out of some who hadn't been before.

It would seem that all would have to agree, that we have enough drinkers already. They cause enough damage, tear up enough property, create enough mayhem and injury, and cause enough deaths that we just don't need any more of that sort of thing.

These two bills need to be stopped in committee. The alcohol advertising bill is in the Senate Judiciary Committee. (Continued on page 11)

News Analysis

High Court likely to maintain delicate church-state balance

By Stan Hasteley

WASHINGTON (BP) — When President Reagan nominated then-Associate Justice William H. Rehnquist to succeed Warren E. Burger as chief justice of the United States, advocates of church-state separation expressed anxiety that their cause might be in serious trouble. Whether that anxiety is well-founded began to be determined Oct. 6 as the Supreme Court began its most closely watched term in nearly two decades.

That the high court will change under Rehnquist's leadership is undoubted. He brings to the tribunal's center chair the savvy of a veteran justice who is at once highly ideological yet immensely popular with his peers. Having just turned 62 Oct. 1, he stands to look forward to a lengthy tenure.

He also brings to that center chair a church-state record that does not bode well for separa-

tionists. Just three years ago, in the case of *Wallace v. Jaffree*, Rehnquist made a frontal attack on Thomas Jefferson's image of a wall of separation between church and state, contending the high court has followed a misguided course for the past four decades in trying to apply the third president's famed concept.

In staking out his position more clearly than ever before, Rehnquist made plain in his *Jaffree* dissent he would like to lead the court to a new delineation of church-state relations in this country. Most pointedly, he wrote in *Jaffree*, he would like to see a return to what he perceives to have been the intention of the framers of the Constitution to do nothing more in the First Amendment clause forbidding an establishment of religion than avoid a national church or the preferential treatment of one

Christian sect over another.

He went on to declare the framers' intention included tax support for religion.

Despite church-state separationists' criticisms — for one, that the new chief justice ignored segments of debate in the constitutional convention that undermine his basic arguments — Rehnquist's *Jaffree* dissent marked a new era in church-state debate inside the high court. Robed with the prestige and power of his new position, Rehnquist may choose the course of an all-out effort to reverse "establishment clause" precedents, thereby testing to its limits the traditional view that church and state ought to be separate inasmuch as practicably possible.

Part of the power of being chief justice involves assigning the writing of opinions when

the chief's side wins. When Rehnquist's position prevails in establishment clause cases, he may follow the example of his predecessor by assigning himself the opinions in key disputes. Or he may turn such opinions over to Justice Byron R. White who, like Rehnquist, believes church-state separation has been taken too far and nearly always votes with Rehnquist in establishment clause cases. Another option may be new Associate Justice Antonin Scalia, whom separationists suspect will likewise line up with Rehnquist in such disputes.

Despite his highly touted powers of persuasion, however, Rehnquist does not have a clear-cut majority yet in close establishment clause cases. Other than White and possibly Scalia — whose five years as a judge on the D.C. Court

(Continued on page 11)

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'86 shortfall causes revision of '87 budget

By Earl Kelly

Executive Secretary-Treasurer

The Cooperative Program receipts received by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board from the churches during the 1986 calendar year totaled \$17,638,534. Though the Cooperative Program receipts show an increase of \$616,679 over the receipts of the previous year, the 1986 Convention budget of \$18,550,000 experienced a shortfall of \$911,466. At the close of February 1986 all of the agencies, boards, and institutions receiving funds from the Cooperative Program were informed that a shortfall could be expected.

In a special called meeting of the staff of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board of Jan. 2, I issued a directive to cut the 1987 Convention Board budget by 4.91%.

I plan to request that the Convention Board cut the total Convention budget by the same percentage to \$18,088,534. I also will request that the percentage

allocations previously approved by the November state convention will be honored for each agency, board, and institution. The Southern Baptist Convention causes will continue to receive the increased percentage of 36.5% of the total. Should the board approve the adjusted 1987 budget request, the new budget will require an increase of \$450,000 over the receipts of the past year.

The undesignated income of the 1,962 Mississippi Baptist churches has experienced a decline due to the economy of the region. I believe that the churches will give as they prosper and we are confident that the convention will be able to meet an amended budget of \$18,088,534 in 1987. Should the economic picture change and Cooperative Program receipts experience an upturn, every entity included in the Cooperative Program budget will receive its proportionate percentage share.

A study of the giving record of churches (Continued on page 7)

Genesis Commission

Conservative Baptists begin independent mission board

By Marv Knox

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A group of conservative Southern Baptists has created a missions organization designed to start churches.

Chartered by two pastors and a layman, the Genesis Commission will recruit and finance like-minded pastors, who will plant Baptist churches, primarily in foreign countries.

Commission leaders are Bill Darnell, formerly pastor of Kirby Woods Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., and now executive director of the commission; John Morgan, pastor of Sagemont Baptist Church in Houston; and Randy Best, lay member of Second Baptist Church in Houston.

Also on the board of the new organization, which had its first board meeting in November, is Paige Patterson, president of Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas which includes Criswell College. The school offers both undergraduate and graduate degrees and is sponsored by First Baptist Church of Dallas.

Both Darnell and Patterson declined to name other board members.

Patterson said it is "very premature to say very much about it since it is in such an infant stage."

Darnell founded the 1,500 member Kirby Woods Church in Memphis about six years ago. When he took a paid leave of absence from his church last April to begin the ministry, he originally planned to help start churches in "pioneer" areas of the United States, where Southern Baptists are scarce, he told Baptist Press.

But since that time, the concept has grown. "Now we're targeting Mexico for church planting work, using na-

tional pastors indigenous to their areas," he explained, noting the Genesis Commission hopes to launch between 20 and 30 new churches in 1987. "We'd like to start thousands of churches (in a variety of countries). But we want 30 next year," he said in late December.

Patterson told Baptist Press: "I think the general disposition of the guys on the board is that while we will have certain specific interest areas, we wouldn't say no to funding anybody who wants to start a church anywhere. I don't really see any limitations as far as where we will work."

Darnell said the group is "committed only to starting local churches; we want to begin works that will last and remain . . . It's the Great Commission; that's our only motive."

The organization will be headquartered in Houston when Darnell moves his family there after the school year ends next summer, he said. But with the charter and bylaws

complete, he said, the group expects to begin initial work during the early months of the year.

"We have targeted all the theological schools in Mexico," he said. "We will fly in and visit with the administrative staffs and get some of their best graduates, and we hope to use those guys. We'll help them financially, and we'll have a weaning process so they'll be on their own in four or five years."

All preachers will be Baptists, Darnell said. He noted the "weaning process" — similar to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's church pastoral aid program, in which a church gets a decreased pastoral supplement each year as its ability to support a minister increases — as well as small staff, will enable the commission to support a maximum number of mission pastors.

The commission is expected to hire an assistant to Darnell, who will participate in on-field recruitment and

(Continued on page 8)

Carey accepts \$700,000 in land and timber

A gift of land and timber with a total value of more than \$700,000 was given to William Carey College, according to an announcement by the donor, Joe Tatum, president of Tatum Development Corp.

The gift includes 44.5 acres of land, 19.9 acres of road right-of-way, and the timber on the land. Value of the 64.4

acres alone is \$644,000.

J. Ralph Noonkester, president of the college, accepted the gifts from Tatum and expressed his appreciation for the continued support from the Tatum family. The initial 40-acre campus was donated to the Mississippi Baptist Convention in 1911 by W.S.F. Tatum, a lumberman and Methodist layman.

The new gift more than doubles the size of the home campus.

Said Noonkester, "The 19.9 acres of road right-of-way will enable the construction of a three lane boulevard (to be named William Carey Boulevard) providing access to the college through a beautiful pine forest from Highway 49. The gift of timber will ensure the natural beauty of the new entrance of the campus as well as beauty on grounds for the future development of the college."

Noonkester added that he, the Carey trustees, administration, faculty, and community leaders will immediately begin formulating short and long range plans for the development of the expanded campus.

An Associated Press story noted that Tatum Land Management Ltd., will be the builder of the boulevard.

Third best month fails to catch budget needs

Mississippi Baptist giving through the Cooperative Program experienced its third best month of 1986 in December with a total of \$1,759,677, according to an announcement by Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. This was an increase of \$341,528 over giving in the previous December.

However, the 1986 budget experienced a shortfall of \$911,466. With a 1986 budget of \$18,550,000, this would be a 4.91 percent shortfall.

When the shortfall was predicted earlier in the year, Kelly had inform-

ed agencies of the convention that expenditures needed to be cut back. He has called for a 1987 budget revision downward by the same 4.91 percent which is the deficit experienced in 1986. (See separate story by Kelly on this page.)

The 1986 total giving to the Southern Baptist unified budget plan in Mississippi is an increase of \$616,679 over giving in 1985, a 3.6 percent increase over the 1985 total of \$17,021,855.

Monthly gifts in 1986 over these of December were \$1,904,875 in January and \$1,765,305 in July.

Pegues, Johnson to serve overseas as Journeymen



Pegues

Johnson

Two Mississippians were among 50 young adults appointed as Journeymen by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. All will work overseas for two year terms assigned to career missionaries. They will be commissioned by the board on Feb. 27.

Sandi Johnson was appointed as assistant to the treasurer and business manager in Quito, Ecuador. She is a graduate of Mississippi University for Women. In BSU she

was president, state secretary, and was community ministries chairman.

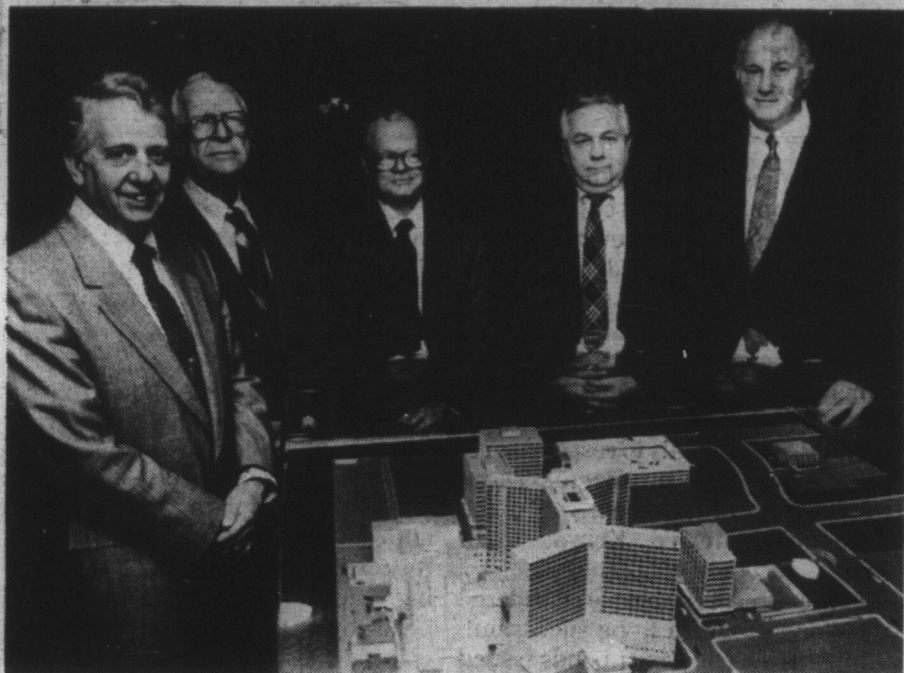
She was a counselor at Camp Garaywa. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Walter Johnson of Big Point. Her home church is Temple Church, Big Point.

Lisia Pegues was appointed as an English teacher in a student center in Bangkok, Thailand. She is currently employed as a youth intern at Calvary Church, Winston-Salem, N.C. A graduate of the University of Mississippi, she was on the BSU executive council and steering committee, program and social chairman, and in the choir.

She was a Home Mission Board summer missionary in Vermont and Washington and was youth director and later assistant minister of youth and activities at Calvary Church, Tupelo. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard M. Pegues of Tupelo where she was born and reared.



Joe Tatum and Ralph Noonkester discuss Tatum's gift to Carey.

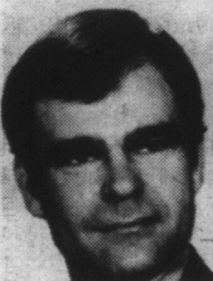


Memphis trustees elect officers

New officers of Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc., (BMHCS) in Memphis were elected during the Board of Trustees semi-annual meeting at Baptist Memorial Hospital Dec. 9. The new officers — shown with BMHCS President Joseph H. Powell (at extreme left) — are, from left, Larry Sloan of Walnut Ridge, Ark., chairman of the board; Herbert T. Conley of Corinth, Miss., secretary; Robert E. Flowers of Memphis, first vice chairman; and William H. Preston Jr. of Booneville, Miss., second vice chairman. The election fell on the fifth anniversary of the creation of Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc. Photo by Greg Campbell.

Smith to serve state music festival at Mississippi College

Doug Smith, professor of church music at the Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., will serve as guest clinician for the Mississippi Church Instrumental Music Festival. The festival begins Friday, Feb. 27 and concludes Saturday, Feb. 28, in Nelson Hall on the Mississippi College campus.



Smith

Smith is a graduate at Carson-Newman College, and earned a masters' degree from North Texas State University and a doctorate from the University of Michigan. He has performed and conducted instrumental clinics at Glorieta and Ridgecrest, and in churches in 21 states.

Registration forms are available from the Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205. Attendance is free.



WCC scholarship honors Trannye White

W. T. Blacklidge of Laurel presents J. Ralph Noonkester, president of William Carey College, with a check to establish the Trannye Odom White Scholarship at the school. Mrs. White, a 1927 graduate of William Carey, left \$10,925.53 to the school to establish two endowed scholarships. Blacklidge is a nephew of Mrs. White. She died in February in Fayetteville, Ark.

Bi-racial commission names Jerry Young as chairman

At the annual organization meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Bi-Racial Commission, trustees elected the following officers to serve on the board and Executive Committee: Jerry Young of Jackson, chairman; Paul Stevens of Jackson, vice-chairman; W. T. Guice of Gulfport, secretary; and Gus Meritt of Decatur, treasurer. Also elected to serve on the Executive Committee were: L. Z. Blankinship of Foxworth and Jerry Mixon of Winona.

The Commission adopted a \$321,690 budget for 1987. The Commission serves as the administration channel through which National and Southern Baptists join in support of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary to provide church development resources and assist Baptist Student Union ministries on 11 predominantly black campuses in the state. A Baptist Student Union retreat for National Baptist students has been scheduled for Feb. 6 and 7.

The director of the Commission and president of the Seminary, Richard Brogan, reported that the seminary operated in 24 extensions throughout Mississippi training 129 National Baptist ministers and 307 lay persons during the Fall of 1986. Brogan stated that six consultants had conducted church development conferences in 34 locations with more than 2,255 persons participating.

Hickman Johnson, academic dean reported that 436 students were enrolled during the 1986 fall semester in the Mississippi Baptist Seminary's

Southern Baptist charismatics form group

ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, Fla. (EP) — Southern Baptists who consider themselves part of the charismatic movement have formed a new organization. The Southern Baptist Charismatic Renewal, led by Don LeMaster, becomes the second nationwide charismatic fellowship in a broadening move among Baptists, reports Vinson Synan in the December issues of Charisma magazine.

"Perhaps the next great wave of the Spirit will indeed take place among Southern Baptists, the nation's largest Protestant denomination," he writes.

Synan traces the history of Pentecostalism among Baptists back to John Osteen's charismatic experiences in 1958. He also notes a growing number of charismatic pastors and whole churches that have stayed within the Southern Baptist Convention, citing as examples evangelist James Robison; pastor LeRoy Martin of Friendship Baptist Church, in Mansfield Texas; and LeMaster, who pastors West Lauderdale Baptist Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Synan says that while some Southern Baptist congregations have had problems once they became charismatic, with a few being forced to become independent, Baptists are becoming more and more accepting of charismatics within their denomination.

system. Johnson said that 43 persons had enrolled in accredited courses being conducted by the New Orleans Seminary. Fifteen National Baptist ministers received scholarship awards from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board to attend the New Orleans program. In Mississippi, there are 400,000 National Baptists and 465,994 Southern Baptists.

The next meeting of the Commission will be on May 14, prior to the 44th

Commencement Exercises of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary which will be held on May 23, 1987.



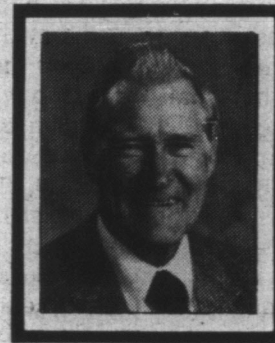
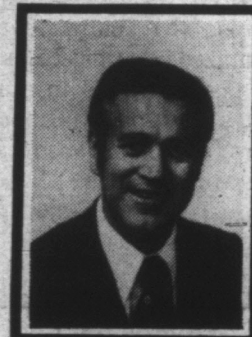
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JANUARY 16-17, 1987

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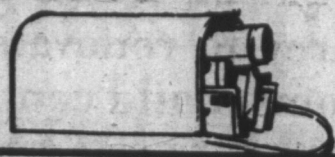
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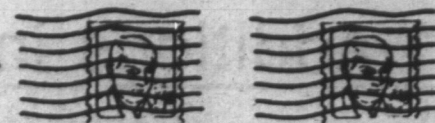
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Letters to the editor



Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld.

Christmas celebrations

Editor:

Christians celebrate Christmas Day as the birthday of Jesus Christ. Christ's birthday should therefore be celebrated primarily as a religious holiday.

In recent years there seems to be a trend for Christmas Day to be away from a religious day to a "gift giving" day! Department stores and other commercial firms emphasize the buying of gifts for relatives and friends. These gifts range from small toys to expensive automobiles!

I believe more emphasis should be placed on activities sponsored and centered WITHIN THE LOCAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH. For instance, (a) the church could have choir presentations (both adult and children) of Christmas music and carols; (b) young people could be organized into Christmas carol groups for presentations in nursing homes and select neighborhoods; (c) the church could sponsor a Christmas stage play on "The Three Wise Men," etc.; (d) Sunday School classes could hold Christmas socials in the homes of members; (e) etc.

Christmas office parties could be changed over the Christmas carols sing "get together" with refreshments.

Non-Christian people should be warmly invited to attend these church sponsored Christmas presentations and social events.

Let's put CHRIST back into our CHRISTmas celebrations and activities. After all, Christmas Day is Christ's birthday.

Robert S. Leigh
Jackson

This came too late to run before Christmas, but it's still relevant. — Editor

Need for ministry

Editor:

The Brotherhood of Woodville Church has begun a ministry at the Wilkinson County Work Center, which serves as a satellite locally to Parchman Penitentiary. Plans are to conduct worship services each Sunday morning in cooperation with other area churches and to provide a systematic Bible Study for the inmates at some time during the week.

We felt that some of our Christian brothers and sisters might like to help us in this venture by remembering us in their prayers and by helping us to locate some much needed equipment to aid in more meaningful worship. We are in need of hymn books and a usable piano. If any of your readers feel led to help us with these needs, we would appreciate hearing from them at their earliest convenience.

Ron Bennett, Director
Woodville Baptist Church
Brotherhood
P. O. Box 214
Woodville, MS 39669

God is our strength

Editor:

As I read through Anne McWilliams column "Faces and Places, What do I want for Christmas," I was moved as I have also learned a lesson in the true meaning of Christmas this year.

My husband suffers from an inflammatory bowel disease called Crohns, not a fatal condition but not curable. He suffers much; and, as he is a pastor, it presents even more problems.

Often my strength and faith fail; but the God of comfort, the same of Isaiah, Chapter 40, brings me to realize: "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faith; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Isaiah 40:28, 29, 31.

My prayer and Christmas wish has been to have my husband home for Christmas. God has been gracious to allow this, and He has taught me that without those we love and the love of Jesus Christ there is no reason for us to celebrate.

Another wish and prayer of my home and to all is to have a New Year full of health and happiness.

Sarah P. Grisham
Wiggins

"In human terms . . ."

Editor:

When I returned from the recent Mississippi Baptist Convention, I had a good feeling about the proceedings which had taken place. Truly we were a people of "one heart and a new spirit." But there was one statement made during the convention that I knew would be brought to trial in the letters to the editor of the Baptist Record and that is the statement made by Charles Carter that Jesus had failed.

In the report of the Baptist Record and in all the comments I have heard, one important phrase that Dr. Carter used has been omitted. He said, "Measured in human terms, one can say that Jesus had failed." Dr. Carter was speaking purely from the context he had established and that is the practice we humans have of measuring success by mere numbers and numbers alone. If memory serves me right, I even believed he warned us about taking the statement out of its context. Taken in the context of the whole sermon and its theme, one can of a truth say, "MEASURED IN HUMAN TERMS, Jesus had failed." But if we take the statement out of context I can understand how one could easily find fault and argue the point.

A principle of biblical hermeneutics I was taught says to always inter-

pret the Scriptures in its context. Could we not apply the same principle to all we interpret and comment upon and thereby avoid a lot of unnecessary arguments?

Mike Kitchens, pastor
North Batesville Church
Batesville

Thank you. — Editor.

Abortion deaths

A survey conducted by Mississippi Alcohol Safety Education Program shows Mississippi Baptists have made up over 60 percent of those arrested and convicted of DUI since 1976. Therefore, we can assume that Mississippi Baptists are responsible for a majority of our state's traffic deaths that are alcohol/drug related, as most are.

My experience and observation as a pro-life activist, sidewalk counselor, and picketer leads me to believe that Mississippi Baptists are responsible for many of the state's more than 12,000 deaths by abortion each year. I talked to an attractive lady (early 20's) outside one of Jackson's three abortion clinics. She confirmed she was there to abort her child she just did not want. I tried to give her literature and talked to her about the humanity and physical development of her child, along with information on the physical and psychological complications of abortion. She replied that she did not want to give her baby up for adoption for someone else to abuse. As she turned to enter the clinic, I asked, "Ma'am are you a Christian? Do you love Jesus? Do you believe the Bible?" She replied, "I'm a Baptist. God will forgive me."

Every 20 minutes in the United States someone dies in a DUI crash. Every 20 seconds in the United States someone dies from abortion. There are 168 alcohol-related deaths every day compared to over 4,000 abortion deaths, 26,000 DUI deaths each year vs. 1.5 million abortions each year. We can cut the DUI's in Mississippi in half by just getting the intoxicated Baptists off the road and in the church. We won't do the great commission till we do the great commandments. If someone would like to get involved saving lives and helping people with crisis pregnancies, they can contact me at 430 Bounds Street, Jackson, Ms. 39206 or call 981-8181.

Bill Conlee
Jackson
Chairman, Mississippi
Chapter
Southern Baptists For Life

Bonds sold out

Editor:

You are aware that Home Mission Board has been issuing bonds to secure funds with which to make loans to churches.

It occurred to me that you would appreciate a report concerning the advertising we did through your state Baptist papers.

During 1986 we were authorized to start issuing these bonds. The Board was given this authority by the S.B.C. Executive Committee, and 1986 became our "pilot project." Through the issuing of two Series we issued

\$7,350,000 in bonds. The bond issues were completely sold out. We probably could have sold several million dollars additional bonds if we had been granted authorization.

We advertised these bonds in 16 states through the Baptist papers. Other than by word of mouth, this was our only advertising outlet. We had over 5,000 individuals to respond to request a copy of the prospectus. These responses came from nearly all of the states plus Mexico, Kenya, South Africa, and the Philippines.

In every respect we have considered this bond program to be successful. While the two Series of bonds issued in 1986 were the pilot projects, this procedure will probably become a permanent part of Home Mission Board's Division of Church Loans.

Let me thank you for your assistance in helping Home Mission Board to develop this program. These additional funds assisted us in making loans to new churches throughout the Southern Baptist Convention in keeping with Bold Mission Thrust.

Robert H. Kilgore
Home Mission Board
Atlanta, Ga.

The Comperes of Newton

Editor:

When my letter to you about the Liberian tragedy was printed on the "Letters to the Editor" page, the printer erroneously gave my address as "Morton." I fear that this will lead some of our friends to think we have moved.

We still have our home at Newton, where we have lived for almost 32 years.

W. L. Compere

HMB stand

Editor:

I want to say praise our Lord for the stand our Home Mission Board took in refusing to give financial aid or support to women who say they are pastors. Where are we headed as Baptists? Where will our once great SBC end if our spiritual leaders give heed to this kind of pressure?

God's Word sets standards; and if we refuse to abide by them, then I see nothing ahead of us but more moral decay. Much worse will be spiritual decay. Again I say, praise God for the Home Mission Board's stand.

Mrs. Russell Daugherty
Quitman

Baptist formalism

Editor:

I want to address the issues in the letter "Baptist by conviction."

I was affiliated with a Southern Baptist church for 25 years. I was a member for 13 years and served two summers as a missionary with the Home Mission Board. However I am now a member of a Pentecostal church that believes in the gifts of the Holy Ghost as mentioned in I Cor. 12:13 and Eph. 4:11. I left the Baptist church because of "The theological distinctives that make the Baptists great." The formalism of most, not all, Baptist churches is programming God and his work right out of the schedule. The letter concerning the Singing Churchmen had complaints

about "an appeal for prayer by a missionary that was not even listed in the program." What is the use of worship if we do not allow God to work in his own time, whether it be convenient to our time schedule or not? (Titus 1:16 and Matt. 15:8-9).

To address one issue of the so called "errors of Pentecostalism," I question the authority of man, and not God (I Cor. 2:4). Pentecostalism is not "a carnival atmosphere, man-centered antics or hilarity." It replaces the formal theological antics of looking Baptist, sounding Baptist, and believing Baptist, with the liberty that is found only in the Holy Ghost (II Cor. 3:17). It also replaces the coldness and deadness in most Baptist worship services with the joy of being born-again by the water and the spirit (Prov. 21:16 and John 3:5). The disciples and others in the upper room were called drunken by a mocking crowd. If God working in a miraculous way through healing is called a "thrill of Pentecostal-type exaggeration," what do you say to John 14:12, "and greater works shall he do," speaking of believers (Mark 9:38-40).

Diana Derrick
Lorena

Citizens' welfare

Editor:

Thank you for your recent editorial concerning the Bethesda girl's home. Your comments and suggestions, along with those of Paul Jones, have been a welcome voice of reason amidst the clamor over this case.

While most Baptists hold religious liberty dear and consider church autonomy a sacred precept, few of us would use the First Amendment to thwart the state's legitimate interest in ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of its minor citizens. States have every right to insist upon compliance with health and safety regulations, and a carefully drafted licensing law is an appropriate means of accomplishing this.

On the other hand, the alleged closing of a church is a far more serious matter. There seems to be no apparent state interest that would justify such a drastic step.

Hopefully, Mississippi Baptists will be involved in the drafting of any licensing law to safeguard the rights of both children and religious institutions. The final product should be a statute that ensures child safety yet protects religious institutions from unreasonable government regulations.

I wish you Godspeed in your efforts.

Oliver S. Thomas
General Counsel
Baptist Joint Committee on
Public Affairs
Washington, D.C.

HMB search

Editor:

The President Search Committee of the Home Mission Board wishes to thank the readers of the Baptist Record for their prayers, suggestions, and recommendations as we search for a new president of the board. We have been overwhelmed by the

(Continued on page 6)

411 additions in 1986

Monthly united prayer urged; career appointees set record

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Pray like never before, especially the first Sunday of every month, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees urged the denomination's churches during their December meeting.

The trustees' plea is that churches will join in a monthly "concert of prayer" for world evangelization beginning Feb. 1.

"Widespread spiritual awakening and world evangelization will never take place without a united, sustained concert of extraordinary prayer," said Barbara Cunningham, chairwoman of the committee that brought the recommendation.

"I cannot expect," she added, her voice breaking with emotion, "to see extraordinary prayer take place across my convention, if it's not happening in my own life."

A toll-free telephone number to inform churches of the latest prayer requests will be established at the Foreign Mission Board. For several years, the board has operated such a toll-free number during the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions in December.

In addition to the toll-free number, the board's prayer office will continue its monthly prayer alerts. The current mailing list is comprised of 23,000 Southern Baptists.

Momentum toward a plea for convention-wide prayer for world missions began to build after an Oct. 12 prayer meeting when about 30 of the 84 trustees prayed in shifts throughout the night.

While trustees planned a concerted prayer effort for world missions, they also rejoiced at the appointment of 43 new missionaries at a special service at Weatherford Memorial Baptist Church in Richmond, Va., Dec. 9.

This addition brought the year's total of career missionary appointments to a new record, 256.

President R. Keith Parks announced that Harwood and Louise Blanks Cochrane of Richmond had made new gifts to the Foreign Mission Board totaling about \$6 million.

The couple gave the land on which the missionary orientation center is located, not far from their home in Rockville, about 25 miles northwest of Richmond, and provided financial contributions toward its construction.

Their latest gifts included shares in Overnite Transportation Company,

founded by Cochrane, which was sold earlier this year to Union Pacific Corp., and other Richmond and North Carolina properties.

The board's human resources committee reported the missionary force continues to grow. Additions to the force in 1986 totaled 411, the second-highest for a single year but below last year's record 429. In 1985, the board appointed 237 career missionaries, the highest number up to that time.

Major attention at the December meeting was focused on Parks' plan for reorganization of the board's staff to gear up for global evangelization. At Parks' request, the board elected a transitional committee to work with staff members in preparing detailed plans for the reorganization.

The 13-person committee, expected to meet early in January, includes six chairmen of the board's standing committees, Mary Strauss of Maryland, Bob Cochran of Virginia, Mark Corts of North Carolina, W. W. Walley of Mississippi, Lloyd Hansen of Tennessee, and Jim Jeffries of Missouri.

Other members are Morris Mills of Tennessee, Dee Bryan of West Virginia, Sam Sorrell of Texas, Alastair Walker of South Carolina, Barbara Cunningham of Texas, Howard Baldwin of Virginia, and Bill Rowlett of Kentucky. Board Chairman Bob Smith of Texas will be chairman of the committee, and the board's two vice chairmen, Buck Buckalew of Virginia and Claude Kirkpatrick of Louisiana, will be ex officio members.

Parks said he hopes that the staff and board representatives could bring definite recommendations in

February, with the new staff alignment to take effect March 1.

Reaching "closed countries" that do not allow the entrance of Christian missionaries is one of the major priorities identified by Parks for future Southern Baptist work abroad. That objective also highlighted a report by Mississippian Lewis Myers, director of Cooperative Services International, the office created by the board in 1985 to enhance Southern Baptist involvement in countries where missionaries cannot live.

Myers reviewed the first year of Cooperative Services International work, which has focused on assisting Christians and others in China through education, medical work, business and other avenues. The office is studying possible involvement in scores of other "closed countries," a term Myers said he increasingly dislikes.

"That doesn't mean the people are closed to friendship, compassion, concern, or prayer," he said. "The country is just closed to missionary residence, and God's intent doesn't rise or fall on the political processes of granting visas."

The board ended the year by adding Canada to its mission fields with the appointment of a third couple to work as fraternal representatives with Canadian Baptists, but removed Brunei from the list. Brunei officials turned down a visa renewal application by Bob and Dorothy Evans, who have lived in Brunei since 1981, and said there could be no appeal of the decision. This leaves the total mission field count at 108.

DiscipleYouth training set

A DiscipleYouth Conference will take place Feb. 16-17 at Central Hills Baptist Retreat near Kosciusko. This is for persons who expect to lead young people in discipleship training.

Leaders of the conference are Dave Bennett and Curt Bradford. Bennett is a youth evangelism consultant and author of the manual "DiscipleYouth." Bradford is a youth specialist with the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Cost of the conference is \$35 for DiscipleYouth I, the introductory course, and \$45 for DiscipleYouth II,

and \$15 for a spouse. Meals and lodging at Central Hills is \$17. Participants need to bring linens.

To register, write, including the registration fee, DiscipleYouth Conference, Church Training Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205.

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HMB President Search Committee
P. O. Box 11870
Montgomery, AL 36111

We also want to thank you as editor for helping communicate to your readers the concerns of the Home Mission Board and the challenge of reaching our nation for Christ.

Troy L. Morrison

Home Mission Board search

(Continued from page 5)
prayerful support of the people as we have faced this tremendous assignment. We believe strongly that God will answer those prayers, and are encouraged by the spirit within the committee.

The committee is continuing to receive recommendations of persons for consideration as president of the Home Mission Board. We would invite your readers to submit recommendations in writing, accompanied by a

Walters leaves Carey to renovate \$75,393 to Carey College

Thomas Jefferson Walters left \$75,393.99 of his estate to William Carey College. This amount was not stipulated for an specific area of the college, as Walters wanted to pass on his general faith in today's young people by supporting Christian higher education.

His association with the college began more than 30 years ago when he was named to the board of development. Later, his niece Cora Joyce (Meritt) Davis, married Ralph Davis, one of the first male Carey graduates. That couple became missionaries.

Walters taught math and science in Jones County and his late wife, Maude, taught economics. He was later a trustee of Mississippi Baptist Seminary. Mrs. Walters died Feb. 18, 1981. Walters died June 13, 1981.

Carey to renovate rooms, build center

HATTIESBURG, Miss. — William Carey College is planning to renovate nine classrooms and construct a 300-seat conference center on the Gulf Coast campus in Gulfport.

Financial arrangements have been completed and the architectural plans are being developed for construction to begin in late January.

The conference center and renovated classrooms mark another step in plans for a full-service Coast campus.

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7:00	6:00	Changed Lives	Vegetable Soup	Vila Alegre	Sunshine Factory	Carrasco-Lendas	Infinity Factory	Moody Science	5:00	4:00
7:30	6:30	One in the Spirit	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	Family Foundations	5:30	4:30
8:00	7:00	Catch the Spirit						Sun School Lesson	6:00	5:00
8:30	7:30	This Is The Life	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Davey and Goliath	6:30	5:30
9:00	8:00	Methodist Hour	Joy of Music	Word of Life	Music Is	First Things First	First Things First	Shippy/bush Kangaroo	7:00	6:00
9:30	8:30		Country Crossroads	Great Churches	In Concert	Great Churches	Invitation to Life	Gigglesnort Hotel	7:30	6:30
10:00	9:00	In Touch						Shippy/bush Kangaroo	8:00	7:00
10:30	9:30		¿Que Pasa?	Bill Cosby	Shari Lewis Show	Mickey Rooney	Rebop	Lone Ranger Cartoon	8:30	7:30
11:00	10:00	Joy of Music						Cisco Kid	9:00	8:00
11:30	10:30	Gloria	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Our World	9:30	8:30
Noon	11:00	Profiles	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	In Concert	10:00	9:00
12:30	11:30	Christopher Closeup	Sgt. Preston of the Yukon	Sgt. Preston of the Yukon	Sgt. Preston of the Yukon	Sgt. Preston of the Yukon	Sgt. Preston of the Yukon		10:30	9:30
1:00	Noon	The Baptist Hour	Lassie	Lassie	Lassie	Lassie	Lassie	Country Crossroads	11:00	10:00
1:30	12:30	Vegetable Soup	Vila Alegre	Vila Alegre	Sunshine Factory	Carrasco-Lendas	Infinity Factory		11:30	10:30
2:00	1:00	Prime Timers	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Jimmy Houston	Noon	11:00
2:30	1:30	Psychiatry and You	Psychiatry and You	Psychiatry and You	Psychiatry and You	Psychiatry and You	Psychiatry and You	Super Handyman	12:30	11:30
3:00	2:00	Sunday Selection	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	Plant Groom	1:00	Noon
3:30	2:30							David Wade	1:30	12:30
4:00	3:00	Great Churches	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Davey and Goliath	2:00	1:00
4:30	3:30							Sunshine Factory	2:30	1:30
5:00	4:00	Joy of Music						Gigglesnort Hotel	3:00	2:00
5:30	4:30	Gloria	Sgt. Preston of the Yukon	Sgt. Preston of the Yukon	Sgt. Preston of the Yukon	Sgt. Preston of the Yukon	Sgt. Preston of the Yukon	Country Crossroads	3:30	2:30
6:00	5:00	Profiles	Lassie	Lassie	Lassie	Lassie	Lassie		4:00	3:00
6:30	5:30	Christopher Closeup	Vila Alegre	Sunshine Factory	Carrasco-Lendas	Infinity Factory	Vegetable Soup	Jimmy Houston	4:30	3:30
7:00	6:00	This Is The Life	Bill Cosby	Shari Lewis Show	Mickey Rooney	Rebop	¿Que Pasa?	Shippy/bush Kangaroo	5:00	4:00
7:30	6:30	Methodist Hour	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Lone Ranger Cartoon	5:30	4:30
8:00	7:00							Cisco Kid	6:00	5:00
8:30	7:30	Changed Lives	Gloria	Word of Life	Music Is	First Things First	Joy of Music	Our World	6:30	5:30
9:00	8:00	One in the Spirit	Great Churches	In Concert	Great Churches	Invitation to Life	Country Crossroads	In Concert	7:00	6:00
9:30	8:30	Catch the Spirit							7:30	6:30
10:00	9:00	Sunday Selection	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	Moody Science	8:00	7:00
10:30	9:30							Family Foundations	8:30	7:30
11:00	10:00							Sun School Lesson	9:00	8:00
11:30	10:30	The Baptist Hour	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	This Is The Life	9:30	8:30
Midnight	11:00	Prime Timers	Bill Cosby	Shari Lewis Show	Mickey Rooney	Rebop	¿Que Pasa?	Christopher Closeup	10:00	9:00
1:00	Midnight	Changed Lives	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Westbrook Hospital	10:30	9:30
1:30	12:30	One in the Spirit						Our World	11:00	10:00
2:00	1:00	Catch the Spirit	Gloria	Word of Life	Music Is	First Things First	Joy of Music	In Concert	11:30	10:30
2:30	1:30	This Is The Life	Great Churches	In Concert	Great Churches	Invitation to Life	Country Crossroads	Super Handyman	12:30	11:30
3:00	2:00	Methodist Hour	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	Plant Groom	1:00	Midnight
3:30	2:30							David Wade	1:30	12:30
4:00	3:00	The Baptist Hour	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Moody Science	2:00	1:00
4:30	3:30							Family Foundations	2:30	1:30
5:00	4:00	Prime Timers	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Sun School Lesson	3:00	2:00
5:30	4:30	Super Handyman						Shippy/bush Kangaroo	3:30	2:30
6:00	5:00	Plant Groom	Sgt. Preston of the Yukon	Sgt. Preston of the Yukon	Sgt. Preston of the Yukon	Sgt. Preston of the Yukon	Sgt. Preston of the Yukon	Lone Ranger Cartoon	4:00	3:00
6:30	5:30	David Wade	Lassie	Lassie	Lassie	Lassie	Lassie	Cisco Kid	4:30	3:30

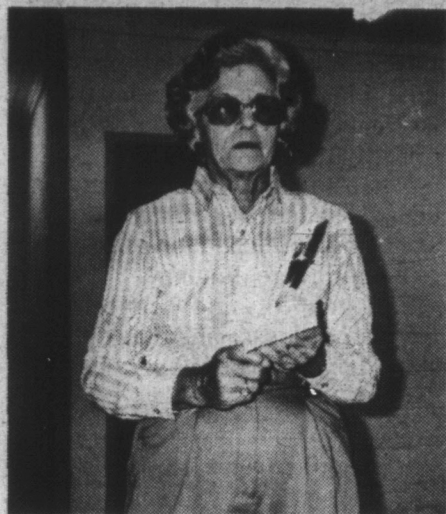
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Jackson, MS 39205

Senior Adult Corner



Patsy Messina



Triple L Club, Picayune

"Perky Patsy" helps organize Triple L Club

By Margaret Gipson

Patsy Messina and her husband Lin moved into our community a few years ago, near Union Church, Pearl River County. She came with a smile and a willing heart to help anywhere help was needed.

She plunged right in and helped to organize the Senior Adults into our famous Triple L Club. Since that time our Senior Adults have enjoyed many and varied times together.

They meet once a month for a luncheon and to make plans for shopping trips and the sightseeing tours they take often. They have just returned from a trip to Eureka Springs, Ark. Patsy plans and engineers these trips and is always the life of the group.

She has led the church in a Blood Drive Program which covers the entire church. She leads the Senior Adults in taking charge of this pro-

gram and they do all the contact work to enlist donors.

Patsy spends much of her time as chauffeur for other Senior Adults, carrying them to the doctor or to the grocery store. Whatever the need, Patsy is always on hand to give of herself.

Margaret Gipson is church secretary, Union Church, Picayune.



Locust Hill Church, Pontotoc County, honored its senior members during its services on November 23. The speaker for the morning service was Mrs. Linda Johnson. Nineteen senior members were present for Mrs. Johnson's presentation in word and song. The morning service was followed with a special Thanksgiving luncheon. The afternoon speaker was Wade Allen, director of missions, Pontotoc County. Ray Stewart is pastor.

Senior members, pictured, row one (l to r) are Mrs. Jimmie Caldwell, Mrs. Bertha Williams, Mrs. Barkley, Mrs. Sue Brown, Mrs. Beulah Little, and Mrs. Erval Brandon.

Row two, Mrs. Mattie Williams, Wiley Little, Mrs. Jimmie Robertson, Guy Robertson, Shorty Boyd, and Mrs. Opal Chapman.

Row three, Arnold Chapman, Alfred Kelly, Dean Brown, Robert Franks, Havis Brooks, Langston Simmons, Travis Brandon, and Lawrence Chapman.



Senior citizen's group of Harmony Church, New Albany, called The Golden Ages took a fall trip to Mobile, Ala. They toured Bellingrath Gardens and Home, visited the Battleship Alabama and returned home by way of Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Pictured, left to right, are front row: Martha Metts, Myrtis Robbins, Velma Tate, Bruce Gray, Robert Daniel, pastor, and driver, O'belle Nolley. Second row: Lavelle Beard, Euron Thomas, Elaine Keenum, and Mary Gray. Third row: Alene Orman, Marguerite Baggett, Fay Davis, Juanita Murphree, Hazel Beard, and Opel Cobb. Back Row: Barbara Daniel, Edness Moody, Elaine Hale, and Chester Hale.

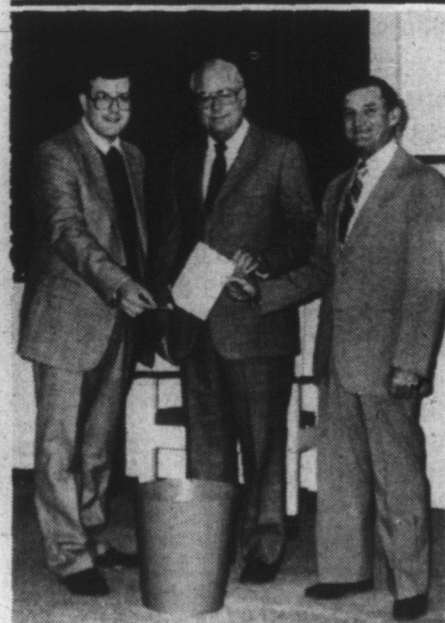
The group went to Memphis Dec. 16 to Bellevue Church to see its Christmas program.

Recently 108 senior adults from Atlanta Association attended a retreat at Central Hills. During the hours before noon the group toured the grounds, buildings and lake.

A meal was prepared by the Central Hills staff. Following the meal and program of group singing, golden memories, special music and a short business session, Jesse McMillan presented a message in keeping with the theme, "Joy in The Lord."

The oldest man and lady in attendance were presented a boutonniere and corsage. John S. Burnley, the oldest man is 90 and Mrs. Swinney, the oldest lady is 92.

The arrangements were under the direction of the association senior adult committee, Mrs. Dot Craft, chairman, Miss Mary Love, and G. K. Taylor.



This is a photo of a note burning that took place Dec. 7. Clear Creek Church, Oxford, paid off the fellowship fund in just two years. The cost was \$70,000. From left are Charles Lipe, pastor; Donald Waller, chairman of building committee; Derald Oliphant, chairman of deacons.

Those in economic crunch invited to crisis meetings

Anyone caught in the "crunch" of the current farm and oil economic crisis is invited to a series of conferences Jan. 22, 23, and 29.

"The economic crisis caused by the farm and petroleum downturns pose for Mississippians the greatest challenge since the Great Depression of the 20s and 30s," says John McBride, director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Cooperative Missions Department which is sponsoring the meeting along with the Arkansas Baptist Convention.

Two sessions will relate directly to the farm crisis: Jan. 22 at Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale; and Jan. 23 at First Church, Greenville. Another session will relate to the oil crisis: Jan. 29 at Parkway Church, Natchez. All will be 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

One of the principal speakers for the

two conferences in the Delta will be Bob Williams, an agricultural analyst on the faculty of Mississippi State University.

At all three conferences will be Stan Rushing and Earl Kelly. Rushing is a family counselor and former Mississippi Baptist pastor. Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the MBCB, will speak on "The Bible Speaks to Adversity."

Lunch will be provided to those who pre-register by writing Crisis Conferences, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205 or phone 968-3800. Deadline to pre-register is Jan. 20. Pre-registration is not required for attendance, however.

The conferences will provide for open-ended discussion of ministry opportunities and coping strategies to help fellow Mississippians get through the crisis.

'86 shortfall causes revision of '87 budget

(Continued from page 3)

ches reveal that 140 Mississippi Baptist churches did not give anything through the Cooperative Program for the years 1985 and 1986. Twenty-nine churches which gave a total of \$10,250 in 1985 did not give in 1986.

Six hundred and ninety-four churches gave a smaller amount through the Cooperative Program in 1986 than they gave in 1985. These churches decreased their Cooperative Program giving by \$845,157.38.

Two decreases were rather dramatic. One church gave \$57,447 less than the previous year and another gave \$54,909 less than during the previous year.

The encouraging picture is that 1,099 churches gave more through the Cooperative Program in 1986 than they gave in 1985. Those churches increased their giving by \$1,474,086.

Among those churches making dramatic increases were Fairview Church of Columbus (\$32,390.59), First Church of Gulfport (\$21,452.81), McDowell Road Church of Jackson (\$18,955.60), First Church of Houston (\$18,410.84).

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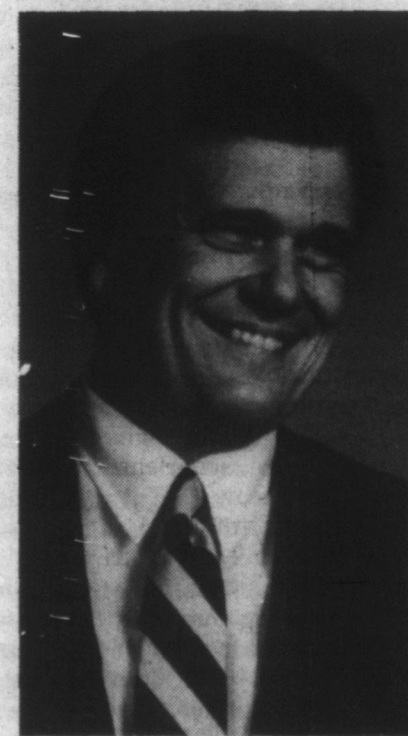
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Cliff Perkins believes in preventive measures

By Tim Nicholas

Let the statistics speak for themselves.

At a Christmas dinner which included a tribute to Clifton Perkins, who retired at the end of the year after 11 years directing the Church Minister Relations/Annuity Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, his records were revealed.

Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the convention board, listed some of the statistics Perkins kept in his monthly reports to Kelly.

In 11 years, Perkins and his staff:

*held 7,202 office conferences

*filled 13,444 requests for staff information

*shared 63,342 biographical sketches

*helped 1,249 churches with pulpit supply

*took 171,005 telephone calls

*assisted 3,488 ministers seeking relocation

*and worked with 636 search committees.

Basically, Perkins job has been to aid ministers and churches in their

relationships — just like the title of the office says. "I believe in preventive measures," says Perkins, "I'd rather build a fence around a cliff than park an ambulance at the bottom. I've tried to major on churches and pastors building healthy relationships as a preventive measure."

Perkins believes the biggest cause of conflict is lack of communication. "A church may have great respect for a pastor but feel he's not giving them proper leadership. Their idea of the ministry of the church is different. On the other hand, the preacher may feel things at the church are not like he was led to believe when he was called."

He adds, "What the church thinks will reach him through rumor and innuendo. We've got to find a way for that pastor and church to communicate in a positive and healthy manner."

That's why Perkins made himself available for church search committees to aid in calling a staffer. He tells each one that at no point along the

way will he try to tell them how to do things. He also says, "When you find the person you want, we will be just as happy as you are."

Perkins' office also helps people who are in forced termination situations. About 50 a year are reported in Mississippi, which Perkins says is rather small, compared to the number of church staffers. "But what makes it a significant problem is the suffering it inflicts and the bitterness it engenders." Perkins would call these troubled ministers at home over a weekend to say he was thinking about them.

What makes the job other than routine, says Perkins, "is men bring their problems to you, you are able to help them, give them assurance, maybe sometimes drawing from your own experience, give them ways to deal with a situation, or sometimes avoid trouble." He notes the shared cost counseling program to which the office makes referrals.

Perkins, who retired at the end of



Clifton Perkins speaks during the Annual Memorial Service for departed ministers during The Mississippi Baptist Convention.

1986, and was replaced by Louis Smith, former pastor of First Church, Canton, says he looks forward to a release from regularity. He's not putting anything in concrete yet, but plans some writing and work around the house with his wife, Sara, plus, perhaps, some interim pastorates. He

came to the board in 1975 from the pastorate of First Church, Greenwood.

"All in all," says Perkins, "it's been a very pleasant and profitable experience. We've made some mistakes, but people have been very kind and responsive."

Conservative Baptists begin independent mission board

(Continued from page 3)

arrangements, and necessary secretarial staff. "We want to try to keep the American staff down so we don't have to spend so many dollars to operate," he explained.

To ensure its stability, the commission has received "a pledge of a certain amount of money to run our organization for 10 years," he said, declining to cite the specific source or sources of the money and its exact amount. He said it is "around" \$2 million, "maybe a little more."

"That amount will run the organization for 10 years, so any other money we raise can go directly to starting churches," he noted. "That money (for starting other churches) will be secured in other ways."

Of the commission's fund-raising and development efforts, he said: "We're going to basically let laymen do that. They know how to raise money. We preachers are going to be the spiritual force behind it. The laymen will raise money, and we'll tap into the nationals and plant churches."

Some observers have warned that the new mission effort might conflict with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, as well as the board's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions and the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program, a unified budgeting process which, among other things, helps finance the board's work in 108 countries.

Darnell denied such an interpretation of the commission's activity: "We're not in competition with the Foreign Mission Board. That's false. We just want to win people to Jesus. We're all Southern Baptists, and we're

all excited."

He said "in no way" does he believe there will be competition between the commission and the board: "I think there's so much money in this world we're petty and little when we think this way. If we're winning people to Jesus, that's the bottom line, and I'll stand by that."

"We would love to be in a very cooperative agreement" with Southern Baptist missionaries on foreign fields, he said. "We're not wanting to run ahead of anyone or do something that is counterproductive. If there's a lack of cooperation, it will not be from our end."

"We're thrilled about whatever the Foreign Mission Board does as it relates to sharing the gospel," Darnell added, noting board ministries such as agricultural expertise, medical aid, and education will not be taken up by the Genesis Commission. "We feel like God has called us to narrow our charter to starting the churches. That's not a reflection on these other ministries; it does not mean we feel they are wrong."

Patterson said the primary concern of the Genesis Commission "is to win people and establish churches and to do as many as we can. We are committed to establishing Baptist churches... and urging them to work with existing Baptist groups in the United States and in Mexico. We do not see we are working in an opposite direction at all. We do not see ourselves as competitive (to the Foreign Mission Board) but as having an augmenting role."

The Dallas educator, who has been at the forefront of the effort to turn the SBC into a more conservative direction, said the focus will be to use na-

tionals — "folks coming out of their own culture" — to start the churches.

He added he "does not envision the Genesis Commission" as a vehicle to send Criswell College graduates to the mission field.

Patterson, however, expressed concern about the FMB's "restrictive regulations" about the appointment of persons who have graduated from schools other than the six Southern Baptist seminaries. Currently, the FMB requires persons desiring appointment who have not graduated from one of the SBC schools but who have graduate degrees to spend a year at one of the SBC institutions prior to appointment.

"If they (the FMB) persist in the present policy they had better get ready for a proliferation of organizations for appointing and sustaining missionaries because if a man is called to foreign missions and the Foreign Mission Board says no, folks are going to find a way to go. We do not, however, see Genesis as doing that (appointing and supporting missionaries)," Patterson added.

Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks has said he would like to visit with Genesis Commission leaders, and Darnell said he would welcome such a meeting. "We're very open," Darnell said, acknowledging they have had difficulty finding a suitable date for both sides to come together but adding, "That would be an exciting meeting."

Baptist Press attempted to contact Best and Morgan, but both were unavailable for comment during the Christmas/New Year holiday season.

Marv Knox is BP feature editor.

FMB names Mississippians



Kenneth and Ruth Bailey



Marvin and Jean Fitts



Wayne and Andi Cook



William and Pauline Eardensohn

Four couples with Mississippi ties were appointed missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in December.

Kenneth and Ruth Bailey were appointed to Bolivia where he will develop and direct a new theological institute. He was born and reared in Vardaman and is a graduate of Clarke College. He is also a graduate of Dallas Baptist University and earned the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary. He is pastor of Aberfoyle Church, Wolfe City, Tex.

She is the former Ruth Holder who grew up in Houston, Miss. She is a graduate of Clarke College. The couple has one daughter, Sonya Marie, born in 1981.

Marvin and Jean Fitts were reappointed as missionaries to Mexico where he will be teaching in a seminary. Since 1985 he has been associate professor of religious education at Mid-America Seminary. They

were Southern Baptist missionaries to Peru for 22 years before resigning in 1981. She was a missionary in Mexico for four years before going to Peru.

The couple both graduated from Union University and earned the master of religious education and doctor of education degrees from Southwestern Seminary.

He was born in Pontotoc and she, the former Jean Carlisle, was born in Lucy, Tenn. The Fittses have three grown children.

Wayne and Andi Cook were appointed to Canada where he will be teaching theology in a seminary. While growing up she lived in Pascagoula. The couple have three children.

And William and Pauline Eardensohn were appointed to Tanzania where he will promote religious education. While growing up she lived in Louisville, Miss. The couple have three children.

Baptists help Honduran farmers

By Stanley Stamps

CHOLUTECA, Honduras (BP) — More than 200 families in 22 southern Honduras communities are benefiting from a Baptist project designed to help them replant crops lost to a drought earlier this year.

The project, sponsored by the Honduras Baptist Convention and financed by Southern Baptist hunger funds, will help an estimated 2,000 people before the end of the year.

Local Baptists and Southern Baptist missionaries are providing bean and corn seeds for replanting the customary second harvest, made possible by late rains. The early harvest, which normally follows the spring rains, was a 90 percent loss this year because of inadequate rains and unusually high temperatures in the southwestern region bordering El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Each participating family receives seeds adapted to the peculiar growing conditions in the area to plant a plot of about two acres. Baptists also supply basic grain supplements twice each month to the families to help them until the second crop can be harvested.

Provisions, including corn, beans, rice, and shortening, are purchased on the local market. Francisco Flores, pastor of First Baptist Church in Choluteca, is supervising the project.

After years of experience with this type of recurring emergency, Baptists chose the replanting approach rather than setting up regular relief distribution or food-for-work projects. Those approaches create a false sense of security and have fewer long-range results, said Southern Baptist missionary and social ministry coordinator Jim Palmer.

About 75 percent of the people receiving assistance are Baptists, Palmer said, but evangelism is part of the project objective. The families live in remote communities not touched by government or benevolent agencies. They live on the land and depend on agriculture for their livelihood.

Southern Baptist missionary Ralph Wilson said light rains have fallen in the region recently, enough to stimulate hope. But he noted that in the last 12 years annual rainfall has been erratic, with a normal year followed by a dry year, which in turn may be followed by a rainy year marked by floods.

Government sources estimate more than 300,000 people have been affected by the most recent drought.

Stamps is a Southern Baptist missionary from Mississippi in Honduras.

Cooperative Program dips in November

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptists' national Cooperative Program receipts dipped in November but remain ahead of last year's record pace, said Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

November's total, \$9,672,612, was 10.2 percent behind receipts for the same period in 1985, Bennett reported. However, receipts for the first two months of the 1986-87 budget year stand at \$20,609,728, or 4.04 percent ahead of the rate for October and November of 1985.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' unified method of financing mission, evangelistic, and educational endeavors worldwide. Members contribute offerings to their churches, which on average send about 9 percent of their total receipts to state Baptist conventions. The state conventions utilize those funds for their own ministries and send from about 30 to 50 percent of their receipts on to the Executive Committee for disbursement to 19 entities.

November's Cooperative Program dip follows the best October the program has enjoyed in its 61-year history. October receipts of almost \$11 million were 21 percent higher than those for the same period in 1985, giving the Cooperative Program a fast start on its \$136 million annual goal.

Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

No one's perfect

No one's perfect. That's a fact. Betty Carlson even wrote a book and called it *No one's perfect*. And isn't it a comfort to know that? Especially when you've just made a bunch of boobos yourself.

Remember that foggy morning in December when you couldn't see twenty feet ahead and you turned on your car lights, if not to see better, then in self-defense? I did too, which was fine, I guess, except that when I stopped in the parking lot of Hinds General Hospital I didn't turn mine off. It didn't bother me for the next two days and nights either while I was in Room 1411 with W. D. But then when I came out and turned the switch, guess what?

The nice hospital security officer tried to help, but her battery (yes, the officer was a she) was not strong enough, because mine was so dead. The service station I called sent help promptly — for \$15.90. But it was the best spend money I threw away that week.

Next night I came home about 9 p.m. and, rambling around in my purse for W. D.'s key ring, I could not find it. I did find my own key ring, so thought, "oh well, I left the others at the hospital." Not so. Next day I searched house and hospital. No keys. I asked at the hospital admittance desk, "Where is the Lost and Found Department?"

"Go see the security officers," they told me. Sure enough. They had the keys — turned in by someone who found them on the parking lot. Evidently I dropped them when I was pulling my hair out over the dead battery. They looked like they might have been run over, for one was broken in half. But thank goodness, that someone had been honest and good enough to take the keys to Lost and Found. No one's perfect. But some folks are wonderful.

W. D. did get to come home from the hospital on Christmas Eve, after he'd been there for 24 days. That did make a happy Christmas for us. And we had holiday food — thanks to Sybil Tullos, Pat Long, Pat Green, Cindy Mortimer, Renee Walley, Sue Jones, Rosa Hooper, and Evelyn Keyes.

Because Florence Larrimore knew

we didn't have a Christmas tree, she loaned me the small decorated tree on Dec. 23 that she'd had in her office. She stuffed it in a plastic bag and I took it to the car — I thought. But when I unpacked the car that night I could not find it. Seems I set it beside the car when I opened the car door, and drove away and left it in the Baptist Building parking lot. At least, that's where it was found. (No, I still have my head.)

Because of all my imperfections, I was glad to find out that W. D. does not always do everything perfectly either! He is gaining strength slowly but steadily. The Monday before New Year's Day he decided he could brush his false teeth himself. And of course he could. But he'd have done a better job had he not reached for the toothpaste and picked up the Micatin, my athlete's foot medicine, instead. Most fortunately, he didn't put the teeth in his mouth before he saw the name on the tube, because Micatin's label says, "If ingested, call Poison Control immediately." He just handed me the tube and told me what he'd done.

I thought, "Oh, no, we'll have to throw those teeth away and buy some new ones! And he'll be toothless until he can be able to travel to the dentist's office."

But I didn't call Poison Control. I called the dentist. Dr. Herrington only laughed. He said, "Wash them with soap and water. Micatin is an acid, so soak them in a soda and water solution for 15 minutes." So now you know what to do if you accidentally brush your false teeth with Micatin.

Since no one's perfect, and that quite evidently includes me, I sort of thought this year I'd just as well not make any New Year's resolutions.

But then I heard Dr. Rueff — who surely must see a lot of sickness and sorrow — say, "Accept every moment of life given you and be happy in it." And that's what I want to resolve: to cherish every minute, beginning now in 1987. Perhaps that will be easier if I keep my attention on what Betty Carlson wrote: "No one is perfect, but it is all gain to set the Lord always before us and walk with him."



All of Mississippi families in Korea as missionaries met in Taejon for dinner on Thanksgiving Day.

Pictured attending from Seoul, Pusan, and Taejon, left to right, are The Jerry Whites, Jerry, Glenda, Cheryl and Kyle; The Danny Hendersons, Danny, Wanda, Cindy and Nathan; The Dan Jones, Dan, Lydia, Jennifer and Jason; The Major McDaniels, Major, June and Mary Anise; The Bill Pattersons, Bill, Debbie, Ben and Tim; The Charles Roys, Charles, Sheryl, Charlie, Angela and Kevin.

Some Mississippi-born missionaries have married "outsiders" or moved into other states early and do not call their families Mississippians, states Major McDaniel.

Soviet Baptists sending medicine to Nicaragua

MANAGUA — Baptists in the Soviet Union have raised funds equivalent to \$US 100,000 to purchase approximately 15 tons of medicine for the Baptist Convention of Nicaragua and the Nicaraguan people.

Valter A. Mitskevich visited Nicaragua to present the medicine and convey greetings to the Convention's Council. Mitskevich is Superintendent of the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the USSR (AUCECB) for the Kalinin and

Smolensk regions. The AUCECB press service reported the visit.

In a letter to the AUCECB, Nicaraguan Baptist General Secretary Thomas Tellez wrote: "This gift of fraternal support was received with gratitude... Be assured that your efforts will be a blessing for thousands of Nicaraguans who are in desperate need and who will be helped in the name of Jesus Christ thanks to these medicines."

Baptist church blossoms in French tire center

By George Gera

CLERMONT-FERRAND, France (BP) — "Hello, are you the Mormons?" "No, we're Baptists," Southern Baptist missionary John Perkins replied. "Can we help you?"

Mormons, Baptists — it made little difference to the caller: "I teach a religion class to high school students, and we're discussing sect groups in France. Would it be possible to meet with you?"

Perkins consented, knowing that non-Catholic groups in France often are labeled as sects, but trusting that the meeting would allow for a Chris-

tian witness.

The missionary subsequently got an opportunity to explain his faith in front of 100 high school students. And he gave each a copy of the Gospel of John and a tract relating the plan of salvation.

Perkins' presentation also caused the teacher to change his outlook. "I see now that you're not a sect," he remarked, "but really a valid Christian group."

Such encounters are a way of life for Perkins and his wife, Sarah, who in 1984 established the first Baptist

church in Clermont-Ferrand, a city best known as the world headquarters for the makers of Michelin tires.

John Perkins is from Florida. Sarah is the daughter of the David Grants of Jackson. Grant is retired pastor of Broadmoor Church there.

As a rule, French people do not understand why an American missionary couple would come to their country, Perkins says. Some observers say France has become "de-Christianized." It's a country strong on individualism and intellectual analysis.

Even so, the missionaries remain busy, building friendships, coping with disappointments and rejoicing at opportunities for leading those looking for something to believe in to Jesus Christ.

When Sarah Perkins started a conversation with the wife of a new department store manager in Clermont-Ferrand, the woman observed that their husbands' work is similar: each is opening a new enterprise in the city.

Contact with this woman and several other professional women

gave Mrs. Perkins an opportunity to start a women's English conversation group. "The trust level is high in the group and they really share their struggles," she says.

Baptists in France say it takes 10 or more years to establish a vibrant congregation, but the Perkinses are convinced that among Clermont-Ferrand's 250,000 people there are many who will find hope in the midst of their struggles through the Baptist church's Christian message.

Gera is SBC missionary press representative in France.

Just for the Record



Baptist Student Union of Jones County Junior College each year participate in two major events at Christmas and Easter. On each occasion eight children are brought by Mrs. Eddie Parker, a migrant school teacher, to the BSU. They see a puppet program, have refreshments, and receive gifts.

The Executive Council of the BSU is composed of eight chairpersons which have a committee that raises \$100 each at Christmas and Easter to help dress the children.

Mrs. Parker secures pictures, clothes, and shoe sizes of the children. Then the BSU students along with Mrs. Jean Jordan, the BSU secretary, purchase the needed items for the children.

John F. Sumner Jr. is director.



Algoma Church, Pontotoc County, recently elected three men to serve as deacons. Jimmy Higgins, Larry Foster, and Lavert McCoy. McCoy was previously ordained.

The charge to the candidates was given by Charles Rogers, former pastor. The charge to the church was given by Floyd Lamb, Algoma's ordained minister. Others participating were Butch and Linda Ritchie, Charles and Debbie Rogers, Gerald and Dianne Hegan, and James Travis, interim pastor.

Pictured, left to right, are Jimmy Higgins, Larry Foster, James Travis in background, and Riley Seale, chairman of deacons, presenting certificates.



Georgetown Church, Georgetown, held ground breaking ceremony for its fellowship hall, Nov. 9. The goal of \$60,000 was reached on the same day. This is the first building project in nearly 60 years.

Pictured, left to right, are Joe Barber III, pastor; Iya Lancaster, president WMU; Gay Albritton, WMU director; Robert Windham, chairman, building committee; Ronnie Burney, chairman of deacons; and Ronnie Errington, president, Brotherhood.



Liberty Church, Liberty, missions fair celebration Nov. 23 included missions clowns, Mission Friends giving programs, RA basketball shoot, display of objects from foreign countries, WMU ladies lap quilting, display of missions history, Acteens wheel of missions, "Name that Tune" of missions hymns used the past 100 years, and Baptist Young Womens booth serving popcorn and cold drinks, and Girls in Action face painting activities. The pastor, Steven R. Pettey, Director of Missions for Mississippi Association John Paul Jones; and WMU director, Mrs. Carol Ginn; RA leaders, Jesse Mabry and Curtis Seay; Acteen leaders, Mrs. Mary Ann Ratcliff and Mrs. Winnie Brecheen; GA leaders, Mrs. Hettie Lynn Tynes and Mrs. Vickie Yeoman; and Mission Friends leaders, Mrs. Debbie Johnson and Mrs. Rhonda Leahey.

Pictured, left to right, are Pettey, Ginn, Mabry and Jones.

Lakeshore Church, Jackson, held its ground breaking services for its new educational building, Sept. 21. Pictured are, Harold Brumfield, architect; George Clark, chairman of the "Together We Build Program;" Al Hopton, architect; Milton Koon, pastor; Jimmy Stewart, building committee; B. J. Belk, Belk Construction Co.; David Lingle, building committee; Mary Yates, building committee; and W. W. Golson, chairman of the building committee. The educational building is scheduled to be completed March 1, 1987 at the cost of \$575,000.



First Church of Lyman, Gulfport, GAs and Acteens were honored in a recognition service. The Acteens (left), pictured are Kathy Falls, Leisa Thomas, Patricia Snyder, Mary Eaves and Hope Parker. The GAs (top) are Jennifer Rouse, Rachel Rogers, Ashley Swan, Nancy Eaves, Shea Cowart, Leona Rausch, and Lorrie Eaves. Argile Smith is pastor.



Harmony Church, New Albany, had a Parent/Child Dedication Service, Nov. 16.

Pictured, left to right, front row, are Richard, Kathy, Amber, and Shanan Jackson; Mike, Paige, Courtney, and Justin

Gregory; and Sue, Gene, and Jason Robbins. Second row, Mitzi, Larry, and Taren Robbins; Robert Daniel, pastor; and Melonie, Danny, and Anna Catherine Turman.

High court likely to maintain delicate balance. . .

(Continued from page 2)

of Appeals witnessed few church-state cases of any description — Rehnquist does not have another single justice on whom he can count to go as far as he would in reversing establishment clause precedents.

Reagan's other appointee, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, while questioning some of those precedents in a separate Jaffree opinion, nevertheless voted with the 6-3 majority that struck down Alabama's statute mandating the observance of silent prayer in public school classrooms. Although she argued in her Jaffree opinion for a review of the court's three-part test to determine the constitutionality of laws relating to the establishment clause — they must have a secular purpose, most have a primary effect that neither advances nor inhibits religion, and must not entangle church

and state excessively — she would not go nearly as far as when the new chief justice.

Poised to resist any revisionist effort by Rehnquist is a solid core of four votes — Justices William J. Brennan Jr., Thurgood Marshall, John Paul Stevens, and Harry A. Blackmun — determined to preserve the traditional view of separation of church and state. Those four — along with O'Connor and Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr. — formed the majority of six who rejected Rehnquist's views in Jaffree and voted to strike down the challenged Alabama law. O'Connor and Powell clearly remain the key swing votes in establishment clause cases.

In the other category of church-state disputes — those involving free exercise of religion — the new court likely will resemble the old one in that its sympathies generally will lie with individuals whose efforts to practice their religion

have been thwarted by others, primarily employers. The exception to this general rule probably will continue to be when the federal government denies free exercise, as in the case of an Orthodox Jew who last term lost in an effort to force the Air Force to permit him to wear his skull cap while on duty.

An early barometer on free exercise in the new term will come when a Seventh-day Adventist woman, Paula Hobbie, attempts to convince the justices she was entitled to unemployment compensation benefits after her employer, a Florida jeweler, fired her for refusing to work on her sabbath.

Similarly, the Rehnquist-led court will have the chance in the new term to decide a key establishment clause case, a dispute testing the constitutionality of a Louisiana law mandating the teaching of creation science alongside

evolution.

Despite the possibility of some minor shifts in deciding establishment clause disputes under Rehnquist's leadership, the delicate balance that has characterized the court's approach in recent terms essentially remains unaltered. That position gives a qualified endorsement to Jefferson's view of strict church-state separation, while allowing for certain exceptions.

To paraphrase Rehnquist's predecessor, Jefferson's wall of separation is really more like a serpentine line, moving here and there to keep both church and state from unduly infringing on the other. That line of separation is unlikely to be erased, even by the persuasive new chief.

Stan Hastey writes for the Baptist Joint Committee.



Co-chairman gives campaign check

Jerry Nixon and his wife, Vickie, present a check for \$800 to the Mississippi Mission, the endowment campaign for the three Mississippi Baptist colleges and the Baptist Children's Village. Nixon's total giving is \$1,000 to the Mississippi Mission, designating it to William Carey College of which he is an alumnus. Receiving the check is Clyatt Strickland who is accepting for Harry Neal, chairman for individual gifts solicitations in Winona. Nixon, pastor of First Church, Winona, is one of 84 area co-chairmen of the congregational gifts division for the campaign, representing Yalobusha, Grenada, and Montgomery Associations. Nixon's gift is one of 42 such \$1,000 gifts to the campaign which seeks to raise \$40 million in endowments. Gifts included in the \$22 million pledged to date range from \$25 to \$5 million. Over the next several months a total of 835 group leaders are working with the 2,000 Mississippi Baptist churches, requesting active support of the campaign. Commenting on the gift, Nixon said, "I would not ask my church or any other church to contribute to something I had not first given to myself.



Ministerial Board elects officers

These are the officers of the Mississippi Baptist Board of Ministerial Education. From left, they are Hardy R. Denham Jr., Newton, president; Mrs. Ruthie Courtney, Jackson, secretary (ex officio); Ernest Turcotte, Clinton, treasurer (ex officio); and Glen Eaves, Clinton, vice president.

Winston men choose Montana partner

The Baptist Men of the 28 churches of the Winston Baptist Association have adopted a mission outreach to Montana. During a meeting to discuss the possibilities, Mississippian Caley Ray Nichols, pastor of Poplar Flat Church, spoke to the group. He and his wife Marie have just moved back after serving as missionaries in Montana for seven years.

Nichols said that retirees could be used for interim work at any level. He

said many pastors cannot take vacation because there are no supply people to fill their pulpits.

Two prospects for the mission work are Whitefish Big Mountain Fellowship and Thompson Falls Baptist Chapel. The Home Mission Board provided a seminary family for each of 10 weeks in the summer of 1985.

The Winston group elected Nichols as pastoral advisor; Mitch Sanders, Bethel Church deacon is chairman;

and Sterling Davis, Calvary Church, and Jack Cockrell, Murphy Creek Church, members. Jerry Stevens, Winston director of missions, and Lowrey Edwards, Baptist Men director, are ex officio.

Pre-filed problems. . .

(Continued from page 2)

mittee, and the state lottery bill is in the Senate Constitution Committee.

Another bill that was filed before the legislative session got under way this week was one in the Senate (SB2035) that would provide state oversight of residential child-care facilities. Mississippi is the only state

without such provisions. Similar bills have died in committee during the past few years.

This bill was introduced by Sen. George Smith, who said, "I don't want to get into religious teachings, but I feel the state has a responsibility as to the safety of any children kept in any home."

Prayer for Spiritual Awakening meet will be in Tupelo

A Prayer for Spiritual Awakening Conference will take place Jan. 16-17 at Harrisburg Church, Tupelo.

The conference is a regional meeting for the Northeastern portion of Mississippi. It is sponsored by the Lee, Prentiss, Alcorn, Monroe, Pontotoc, and Tishomingo Associations and the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Principal speakers for the meeting will be Ralph Langley and Bob Hamblin. Langley is pastor of First Church, Huntsville, Ala., and Hamblin is director of evangelism for the Home Mission Board. Hamblin is a former pastor of Harrisburg Church.

The program begins at 1:45 p.m., Jan. 16, and concludes at noon the next day.

HMB employees change careers

ATLANTA (BP) — Three Southern Baptist Home Mission Board employees have resigned to pursue personal career opportunities.

Bob Duvall, who has been employed by the agency for the past six years as director of hospital chaplaincy, has become the director of chaplaincy with an Atlanta area hospital.

Loretta Hays, who has been director of employment services for the

Atlanta-based missions agency since 1982, resigned to accompany her husband to a new pastorate in Lexington, Ky.

Ron Loftis, who joined the board as assistant director of the church and community ministries department in 1985, has become director of missions for Roberson Baptist Association in Lumberton, N.C.

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"I am so happy and feel so good, but I dare not feel so good and free that I forget who I am and what I am. I now live day by day and nothing more and nothing less. I am getting to preach in a different church every Sunday as I supply for my friends. I am doing some family Christian counseling during the week, and I am enjoying this so much. I am working with a number of marriages and a number of young people. I really feel that the Lord wants me to work with folks who have problems like I have. I truly feel I have something to offer and would like to do this. But I know I need time to prove myself in every area of my life. But, on the whole, everything is going real good and it feels so good to be free from pills and drugs. I have been back to my church and the people have been so nice to us there.

"The kids are doing well, getting

ready for Christmas Day. We will probably have less in the material way this Christmas than ever before, but we consider ourselves rich. My wife has a new husband with a clear head, and my kids have a new daddy.

"I just wanted you to know how thankful I am to you for helping me become this new person. I pray that you will have a wonderful Christmas and a 1987 filled with many sweet and wonderful blessings. When you pray, please think of me.

This is an excerpt from a letter received at the Mississippi Baptist Chemical Dependency Center.

Questions addressed to Intensive Care are forwarded to Chaplain Joe Stovall at the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. Inquiries should be addressed to Intensive Care, Baptist Record, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205.

Names in the News

Mrs. Zeela Wayne Jones of Preston retired as church clerk of Dry Creek Church in December after 51 years of service. J.H. Herrington, now deceased, was pastor when she began her service. She succeeded her sister, Mrs. Thelma Moody. Mrs. Elaine (Scott) Faulk is the new clerk. A plaque was presented by W.C. Palmer Jr and the pastor John Yancey and Edward Triplett, a nephew. She has served as Sunday School superintendent, teacher, and WMU director.

Jerry Young, professor of education and assistant academic coordinator at William Carey College on the Coast in Gulfport, had three articles published in 1986.



The first was written with Reed R. Mottley and Linda Kay, his former colleagues at the University of Southern Mississippi. "Using Manzo's ReQuest Model with Delinquent Adolescents" was published in the March issue of the *Journal of Reading*.

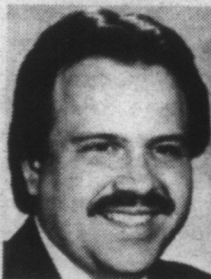
In the March issue of the *Journal of Career Development*, Young wrote the article "What Competencies do Employees Really Need? — A Review of Three Studies."

And the July/August issue of *The Social Studies* included the article "Socratic Teaching in Social Studies," written by Young and Ms. Kay.

I would rather sit on a pumpkin, and have it all to myself, than to be crowded on a velvet cushion. — Thoreau-Walden

Two students with ties to Mississippi were among 68 graduates receiving degrees during the annual mid-session commencement at Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

They are Gary Edward Sparrow, Picayune, master of divinity degree, and Jeremiah Tillman, Jackson, master of divinity degree.



Broadhead



Measels

Eight Mississippi students were awarded degrees from Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. during the 158th commencement Dec. 19.

The Mississippi graduates include the following: Donald Clark Measels, Morton, doctor of musical arts; Lee Castle, Slayden, and Robert Ames Holifield, Laurel, doctor of ministry; Melanie Karen Cox, Winona, master of arts in Christian education; Mary Trott Johnston, Clinton; and Amy Allyene Pitts, Terry, master of social work; Edwin Keith Broadhead, Meridian, doctor of philosophy; and William Fernie Maxwell, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson, master of divinity.

John D. and Nell Smith have returned to the states from Indonesia on furlough for four months. They will be in Jackson at 2334 Coronet Place (39204) until April 10, phone (601) 373-8115.

Nell is the former Nellie Brock and is a native of Brookhaven, and John is from Bogue Chitto.

Morris indicted in Senter murders

SANNIQUELLIE, Liberia (BP) — A Liberian grand jury indicted Benjamin M. Morris Dec. 16 for the murders of Southern Baptist missionary Libby Senter and her 10-year-old daughter, Rachel.

A February trial date was set during the brief indictment proceeding at the Nimba County courthouse here. Missionaries George Senter, the husband and father of the murder victims, and Earl Williams, who first found the bodies at the Senter home in Yekepa, were present at the proceeding. Defense counsel for Morris has been appointed.

Morris, 32, was arrested Nov. 27 near the Liberian border with Ivory Coast, one day after he allegedly stabbed Libby and Rachel Senter. He later gave oral and written confessions to the crimes. Liberian police also have indicated they have physical evidence against Morris, a Liberian Baptist seminary graduate who was befriended by the Senters and other missionaries.

The criminal investigation "has been handled very professionally" by Liberian authorities, said missionary Bradley Brown, administrator for the 67 Southern Baptist mission workers in the country.

Liberians have expressed high ad-

miration of George Senter's face-to-face expression of forgiveness to Morris, according to Brown. But everyone wants "justice to be done," Brown said. "Liberians take it as a matter of shame to Liberians and Liberia that such a thing as this, such an unheard of thing, could happen. (There is) shame and sorrow... just shock, really, throughout the country."

Senter tried to visit Morris a second time in Yekepa, Brown said, but

authorities had transferred the accused killer to custody in Sanniquellie.

Senter and his son, Philip, left Liberia Dec. 17 for a month-long stay in the United States with Senter's brother, Fred, pastor of English Road Baptist Church in High Point, N.C.

There may be something wrong with our swallowers because we choke on some of the things we are expected to swallow.

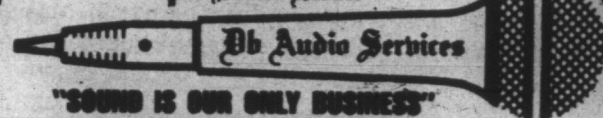
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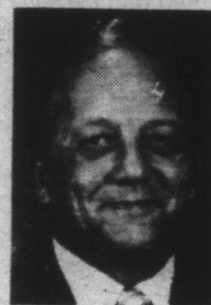
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Staff Changes

Woodville Church, Woodville, has called Daniel Robert Howard as pastor effective Dec. 1. His wife, Marsha, and son, Daniel, moved with him from Pine Grove Church near Picayune. Howard is a native of Poplarville and was educated at Pearl River Jr. College, and William Carey College. He received a master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary and is presently working on a doctorate in education with emphasis in pastoral counseling and psychology.



Howard is a native of Poplarville and was educated at Pearl River Jr. College, and William Carey College. He received a master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary and is presently working on a doctorate in education with emphasis in pastoral counseling and psychology.

Trinity Church, Biloxi, called C. H. Stone Jr. as pastor effective Nov. 26. He is the former pastor of Belle Fountain Church, Ocean Springs, where he served for over 17 years. He and his wife, Myrtis, have five children.

Carey employs new staffer

GULFPORT, Miss. — Don Fowler, a 1954 graduate of William Carey College, has been hired as coordinator for academic affairs and student development at Carey on the Coast here.

The former army chaplain (Lt. Col.) retired Nov. 30 after 20 years of active duty and began work at the college Dec. 1.

Fowler, who was born in Minnesota and grew up in St. Petersburg, Fla., attended Carey in 1954 on a track scholarship. During his senior year and for one year after graduation from WCC he was pastor for a church in Jasper County. He then attended Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., where he earned a master's degree.

Fowler is married to Gwen (Grissom), a Petal native. The Fowlers have two sons, Tony, a student at Texas A & M; and Michael, a student at Carey on the Coast.

Carey announces registration dates

HATTIESBURG, Miss. — Spring registration at William Carey College in Hattiesburg will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Jan. 13, in the Thomas Business Building.

Students may call or visit prior to registration for counseling or advisement. Classes will begin Wednesday, Jan. 14.

For more information, call 582-6103.

Mississippi Baptist activities

Jan. 11 — Witness Commitment Day (EVAN Emphasis)
Jan. 11-18 — Deacon Emphasis Week (CAPM Emphasis)

Williamson to Attala as DOM

Paul B. Williamson Jr. assumed his duties as director of missions for the Attala Baptist Association in Kosciusko, on Jan. 1. He has served for the past 7 years as pastor of First Church, Monticello, Fla.



He is a native of Magee having served as pastor of Wade, Bogue Chitto, New Augusta, and Richland Churches. He was born in Magee, reared in Soso, and attended Jones County Junior College.

Williamson is a graduate of Bob Jones University and the New Orleans Seminary. He has been a pastor 34 years.

His new address will be Attala Baptist Association, P. O. Box 188, Kosciusko, MS 39090.

Bassfield Church, Bassfield, recently called David Dewease as pastor. He and his wife, Mona, have two children, Brooke and Brandon. They moved on the field the first week in December from Oakvale Church, Lawrence Association and were welcomed with a reception, Dec. 7.

Algoma Church, Pontotoc County, called Donald (Don) Smith as pastor, effective Dec. 1. He and his wife, Hilda, moved from South Fulton, Tenn. He served as pastor at Corinth Church, Shannon, Tenn., and Moscow Church, Moscow, Ky. Smith received a degree from University of Tenn., and a master of divinity from New Orleans Seminary, May, 1986.

A. C. Johnson, former president of Clarke College, has been called as interim pastor of Mount Olive Church, Meridian, Lauderdale Association.



West End Church, Louisville, has called a new pastor, Wayne Hill, and dedicated a new van. Pictured with the van is the Hill family. From left are Wayne Hill, his wife Sandra, daughter Renee, son William, and not pictured is Shellye who is a student at Southwestern Seminary. Hill is a Louisville native.

Associations adopt new annuity plan

Associations which have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since Nov. 6, are Warren, Yazoo, Jasper, Copiah, and Covington-Jeff Davis. This is a total of 48 associations.

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan of 1988 since those reported in the Nov. 6 issue of the Baptist Record. This is a total of 280 churches.

Adams-Union, Union Church; Bolivar, Immanuel; Calhoun, Bradford Chapel; Grenada, Bethel; Hinds-Madison, FBC, Canton, Westview; Lafayette, Temple Heights; Leake, FBC Carthage; Marshall, Springhill; Mississippi, Mt. Pleasant; Monroe, Meadowood; Montgomery, Duck Hill; Panola, FBC Batesville; Scott, Hopewell; Simpson, FBC Magee; Smith, Harmony; Tishomingo, Oldham;

Walthall, Tylertown; Washington, Hollandale; Winston, Dry Creek; Yazoo, FBC, Yazoo.

Basketball tourneys are scheduled

The regional and state basketball tournaments are scheduled in January and February. Those wishing to participate must register.

The regional tourney will be Jan. 23 and 24 and will consist of competition within seven regions of the state. The state tourney will be Feb. 13 and 14.

For details on the tourneys and for rosters and rules, contact Charles Nicolic, tourney organizer, at the Hinds-Madison Association office in Jackson, phone 362-8676 or 362-8199, or his home number at 373-6778.

Regional directors are: Region 1, Chuck Hampton, Booneville, 728-4581; Region 2, Kelly Smith, Greenville, 334-9645; Region 3, John Bewley, Jackson, 366-8433; Region 4, Robbie Guthrie, Laurel, 649-5712; Region 5, Mark Coon, Jackson, 373-2371; Region 6, Brookhaven, 833-5118; and Region 7, Brent Slocom, Foxworth, 736-9096.

Revival Dates

Goodrum Church, Vicksburg; Jan. 11 to 16; J. Harold Smith, Newport, Tenn. and Bill Sturm, Tulsa, Okla., a member of Smith's staff; services at 7 p.m.; nursery provided; Dwight Turner, pastor. Smith is said to have preached on radio longer than anyone, having begun on Dec. 1, 1935, and continuing for seven days a week since.

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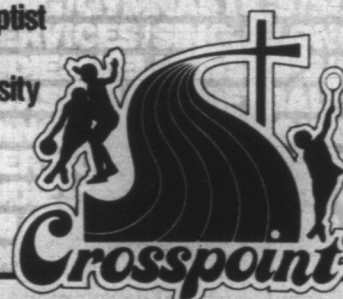
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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

Anointed by Mary, acclaimed by the people

By Charles Wesley
John 12:1-16

A personal encounter with Jesus Christ always demands a response. One cannot remain neutral in his response to Christ. This lesson confronts us concerning our response to Jesus and the motivations behind the ministry we perform in his name.



Wesley

I. Mary anoints Jesus' Feet (12:1-8). The Passover was the most important religious celebration of the Jews. This celebration commemorated Israel's deliverance out of Egypt. All Jews had a desire to attend at least one Passover. However, all Jewish males living within twenty miles of Jerusalem were required to attend the Passover. Thus, the city would be swelled with excitement.

Six days before the Passover Jesus arrived in Bethany to stay at the home of Simon the Leper (Matt. 26:6). Martha, Mary, Lazarus, and other friends of Jesus were present. At the supper, Mary, in a spirit of love and servanthood, anoints Jesus with expensive perfume and then wipes the feet of Jesus with her hair. This expression of love raised the ire of Judas who

thought the act to be a senseless waste of expensive perfume. Judas rationalizes that proceeds from the sale of the perfume could be given to the poor. However, John, writing much later about the event, points out the deceitfulness of Judas' statement.

The contrast in the responses of Mary and Judas to Jesus Christ is still seen in the lives of people today. Like Mary, people give of their very best in expressing their love and commitment to Jesus. They are motivated by the unmerited salvation that Jesus alone gives to them. Then, like Judas, there are those who follow Jesus solely for personal gain. In some communities prestige, power, and popularity can be gained by appearing to be a Christian. We need to constantly be conscious of the motivation behind our attachment with Jesus and his church.

In addition, we should provide support and encouragement to those in need as Mary did to Jesus as he approached his death. Important lessons in humility, servanthood, and liberal giving are to be found in verses one through eight.

II. The chief priests' plot against Lazarus (12:9-11). John tells us that a "great multitude" learned of the presence of Jesus and Lazarus. They were coming not only to see the miracle

BIBLE BOOK

worker everyone was speaking of, but also Lazarus, the one raised from the dead. As a result of seeing the sign of Jesus' deity, John reports that "many of the Jews were going away, and were believing in Jesus" (v. 11, NASB).

Drastic measures were proposed by the religious leaders to stop more Jews from following Christ. The chief priests were already plotting Jesus' death. Now they were plotting the death of Lazarus, too. No limits are established by evil men who desire to destroy the light God gives to a dark world. Also, a strong reminder is given concerning the price that may be paid for being a friend of Jesus.

III. Jesus acclaimed by the people (12:12-16). These verses describe the event known as Jesus' "Triumphal Entry." However, the story relates an entry unlike the entry of a victorious king of general. When a victorious king or general would return home he usually would ride into the city on a white horse or in a chariot. He would be followed by defeated captives to make a public display of his victory.

Rather, Jesus rode into the city on a donkey to proclaim himself as a King of peace. Hershel Hobbs correctly points out that Jesus rode into the city before the battle, not after the victory. The King was coming in peace to offer his peace to a troubled world. Jesus is still coming to people today to give them a peace that no circumstance in life can take away.

In spite of the protests of religion leaders there were many who could see the significance of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. They cried out with words of praise to the King that could bring peace not only to the world but to any troubled soul that would receive him.

It is not strange that the common people could see prophecy fulfilled before their eyes (Zechariah 9:9), yet the religious leaders could only see a threat to the power they exercised over others. To the Pharisees the whole world appeared to be going after Jesus.

We should pause and consider our response to Jesus Christ. Will we respond in humility to serve Jesus, or will we respond to Jesus for personal gain? Some make a life commitment to Christ, while others will follow Jesus only when following him is the popular thing to do.

Charles Wesley is pastor, Morrison Chapel Church, Cleveland.

Priority of persons

By Nathan L. Barber
Luke 5:27-35; 6:1-5

Scene one . . . Having once gathered taxes for the Roman Government, Levi's new desire was to gather men for the Master. A huge crowd of tax-gatherers and other people attend the reception. Perhaps many who came to the celebration wanted to see and meet this one for whom Levi had turned his back.



Barber

The Pharisees distanced themselves from all whom they considered unclean. Their very name, Pharisee, means "the separated ones." They began grumbling and fussing at Jesus' disciples. Why would the disciples and Jesus eat and drink with the likes of tax-gatherers and sinners? This latter group represented those who were either ignorant or neglectful of the customary religious practices and procedures. Tax-gatherers, of course, were hated and despised.

Jesus answered the question by indicating that those who are well do not need a doctor; it's those who are sick who need the ministry

LIFE AND WORK

of a doctor. Surely the well (the righteous) will see the logic of the doctor ministering to the sick (the tax-gatherers and sinners). And because the Pharisees saw themselves as righteous, Jesus was, at least temporarily, justified in his action.

Jesus was not indicating that the Pharisees actually were righteous, only that they perceived themselves to be righteous! There was a bad case of self-righteousness! The Pharisees' righteousness was their possession only because there were "sinners" who failed to live according to the accepted norm, practices, rituals, and customs. They were more concerned with breaking the social and religious custom forbidding association with "sinners" than they were with helping the "sinners." Jesus saw the "sinners" as persons who had needs. Jesus always gives priority to persons over religious practices and traditions.

Scene two . . . The disciples of John the Baptist and the disciples of the Pharisees temporarily join together to question Jesus about fasting. Evidently both groups fasted twice a

week (Luke 12:18). In Judaism, fasting had come to be associated with religious piety. For the Pharisees, this traditional ritual of fasting helped them to maintain their status above the "sinners."

Jesus responds to their question with precision. His disciples would fast when it was appropriate. Jesus demonstrated by his own practice (Luke 4:1-13) that fasting does have a proper place in the Christian life. However, religious rituals which are done for their own sake are empty and meaningless.

Jesus' fasting was sincerely observed after his baptism during the temptation experience in the wilderness. His fasting was not controlled by the calendar; it was controlled by the principle of priority. If something is more important than eating (crisis, grief, love concern, or spiritual struggles for example), then fasting is certainly appropriate.

Scene three . . . The Pharisees now ask Jesus to account for his disciples' actions. While walking through the grainfields, they had picked and ate some grain on the Sabbath. By picking, the disciples had broken the regulation against reaping; by rubbing the grain in their hands, they had breached the rule against threshing; and by throwing away the husks, the prohibi-

tion against winnowing had been transgressed. The Rabbinic law, with its multitude of rules, had made the keeping of the Sabbath repressive. Man was subordinated to rules and regulations.

Jesus defended his disciples' actions on two fronts: human need and his authority. The welfare and needs of persons always take priority over any rules, rituals, or ceremony. Jesus referred the Pharisees to a scriptural precedent. In I Samuel 21:1-6 David and his band of men ate the consecrated bread which was intended for the priests only (Lev. 24:9). But the need of his men took priority over a legalistic approach to a religious regulation.

Jesus, also, defended the actions of his disciples on the basis of his own authority. He said that the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath. Leaving off the last three words of Jesus in verse five helps us to understand what he tries to impress on the Pharisees. The Son of Man, a name bearing Jesus' Messianic function, is Lord! He is Lord of everything, including the Sabbath. David's Lord should certainly be blameless for doing no more than David had done. After all, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27).

Barber is pastor, First, Bay St. Louis.

Man of compassion

By Robert M. Hanvey
Luke 7:11-17; 14:1-6

Where I lived as a young boy, my family and I were located between two barriers. One barrier was a railroad track to the west; another barrier was a large boulevard to the east.



Hanvey

I was told I was not to go beyond the railroad track to the poor, and I was not to go beyond the boulevard to the rich. It was not that I was raised incorrectly. It was not that people said we could not have anything to do with folks beyond those barriers, but it was that there was no feeling, no real concern because they were different.

The real feelings of concern for the people, at least in my understanding, is called compassion. This compassion just did not seem to be present among my peers.

The compassion which Jesus has for you and for me is expressed beautifully in our focal passages, Luke 7:11-17 and 14:1-6. We also learn

the compassion which Jesus had for people in all circumstances and need. Jesus taught us what compassion is. As we look at Jesus' teaching we can learn to identify situations in which we are willing to go beyond the barriers which we erect or which others erect for us, and minister in Christ's name. In other words, we need to show feelings of concern or compassion to those in need.

The Gospel of Luke emphasizes Jesus' compassion for persons with special needs. Just as surely as we look at the passages from Luke we identify with people today. For instance, in Luke 7:11-17, we note the concern of a young fellow who had died; and Jesus, out of his love for not only the child but for the parents, raised the young man from the dead. Truly a miracle. Truly an expression of compassion. What Jesus did in that particular situation to bring honor and glory to himself was to express his feelings of compassion to this dear and wonderful family because of his love for them. In the 14th chapter of this same Gospel, we learn of a situation in verses 1-6 where Jesus healed a man who had dropsy. Of course, the barrier that was erected

UNIFORM

for him that day by the scribes and Pharisees was simply that it was the day of worship or the sabbath day. Jesus contended with them and said that his compassion did not stop because of the day of worship; that he had the full right to extend his love and compassion beyond and on that day.

Jesus showed his compassion for the widow by restoring her son to life. His compassion was expressed in the 14th chapter by simply taking care of the man's physical needs.

Jesus taught that meeting man's needs where he was went far beyond ritualistic observances and customs. Perhaps it is today that we as adult Christians oftentimes worry about the difficulties in which we find ourselves. Could it be that just a word of encouragement from one to another would help us to express the compassion which we feel?

Oftentimes we are concerned about the death

of loved ones, and it is difficult for us to find strength and comfort. But look at what Jesus did for those whom he loved. It might not be that he would raise one from the dead just for you and for me; but to know the truth of the resurrection and to know his love and concern, and to know that he possesses power for his glory is a comfort to you and to me.

Moments of sickness, moments of difficulty and moments of joy are those experiences through which the Lord expresses compassion and through which we learn to express compassion for other people. We need to be free from whatever barriers exist, either in front of us or behind us or to the sides of us in order to be able to minister.

We may need to cross the tracks or the boulevard. We may need to go to a next door neighbor — whatever those barriers are, whatever those customs are, whatever those rituals are, could it be that we need to express compassion beyond them? It is every Christian's responsibility to minister in this world of spiritual and physical hunger.

Robert Hanvey is pastor, First, Hazlehurst.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



The Baptist Children's Village

Paul N. Nunnery, Executive Director

P. O. Box 11308, Jackson, MS 39213, (601) 922-2242

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

NOV. 25 - DEC. 10

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Friendship S.S. Class, Valley
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Mrs. Irma Paris
Henry & Rose Paris
Mr. Brock Craft
Miss Katherine McLeod
J. M. & Elyne Fryer
Fred & Rose Powers
Don Windham, Sr.
The Jerry Bodies
Leslie Worsham
Neil & Anne Wrenn
Mrs. Glynn Wright
TEL Class, Oakland

DEC. 11-23

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Mr. & Mrs. Ray A. Whelan
Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. John Manning
Georgia S. (Demp) Allen
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Mrs. Ruth B. Allen
Mr. & Mrs. Richard M. Allen
Mr. John Ames
Mrs. Fern Morris
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Mr. & Mrs. Dan W.
Southernland Jr.
Mr. Bill Ashley
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Sr.
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Mrs. Opal Rose Bain
Nell Rose Bain
Mrs. V. B. Baker
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Purvis Sr.
Clarence C. Ball
Mr. & Mrs. James Hammack
Mr. George Barnes
Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Till
Grady Barnhill
Joe and Faithy Knight
Mr. & Mrs. Hiram Lynch
Mrs. Mary Alice Barnhill
Mr. & Mrs. Dan W.
Southernland Jr.
Van Barrier
Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Carter
Marshall H. Beard, Jr.
Bill & Michelle Beard
Amy C. Beard
Mr. Buell Bearden
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McComb
Ms. Olive M. Rebold
Bonnie M. Stanley
Mrs. Hugh Berryhill
Mr. & Mrs. Beaxter Irby
Mrs. Louise Bates Berryhill
Mrs. Dollie McGaughy
Mr. Singleton Bishop
Mr. & Mrs. D. W.
Fortenberry
Dr. F. M. Blackwell
Mrs. Ruth F. Blackwell
Louis Bounds, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Dan W.
Southernland Jr.
Mr. Durwood Britt
Mr. & Mrs. G. Wayne Smith
Charles L. Brown, Sr.
Edward Elward
Mrs. Rosalie O. Browning
Mrs. Audrey S. Ellzey
Mrs. Annie Lee Bulloch
Mrs. Paul Ellsworth
Mr. Frank Cadenhead
Upton Sunday School,
Carthage
Mr. Dick Caldwell
Mr. & Mrs. Robert N.
Aldridge Jr.
Phil Carnathan
Mrs. P. T. Carnathan
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Rev. Horace Carpenter
Carol & Buddy Lowrey
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Mrs. Essie C. Causey
Ms. Reba J. Leigh
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Miss Edna L. Horton
Mr. & Mrs. Claytop
Lawrence
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Brenda Carson
Mr. W. M. Carter
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Alford
Mrs. Morgan (Mary) Collins
Ms. Marjorie M. Pearson
Clark N. Cook
Mr. & Mrs. Lundie Johnson
Mrs. Annie W. Cook
Mrs. Madge Black
Mr. Owen Cooper
Mrs. Eleanor B. Dean
Mrs. Virginia C. Quarles

Mr. Vonnie Cothorn
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Tyson, Barry
& Ann
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Mr. Early Garrett
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Moffett Gentry
Mr. & Mrs. Allison Douglas
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Lucy and Bub Allen
Mary Kate Gullette
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Dr. R. H. F. Lynch
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Mr. & Mrs. L. P. Prince
Mr. & Mrs. Gus Evans
Mrs. Dollie Lanier
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Mrs. Irene Hollinger
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Mrs. Pat Eager
Miss Emily French
Mrs. Walda H. Lamb
Judge & Mrs. W. W. Brown
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Troy A. and Emma Lois
Lancaster
Joe Ray Langston
Mrs. Ernie McCoy & Family

Bub Latham
Ms. Marilyn Williams
Young Married S.S. Class
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Mrs. L. D. Harverson
Mrs. Nellie Little
Mr. & Mrs. Crawford Bell
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Crystal Springs
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Mrs. J. D. Vincent Jr.
Macie Lundquist
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Prentiss Baptist Church
Dorcas S.S. Class, Woodland
Hills
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Billie Sue Morton
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Mrs. Hilma Moss
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Pleasant Home Baptist
Church Laurel
Mr. Walter Mullin
Mr. & Mrs. Beaxter Irby
Billy Narmour
Muriel Andrew
Ruth Sullivan
Mrs. E. Naron
Mr. & Mrs. Joe P. McCain
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Cleveland
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Dr. & Mrs. Raymond S.
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Mr. & Mrs. Howard Green
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Mack Owen
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John H. Parks
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Mrs. Betty Pate
Ms. Ida E. Ingram
Mrs. Bettye Pate
Mr. & Mrs. Rufus Graves
Thelma A. Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Joe T. Woodyear
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Mr. & Mrs. Aubry Hays
Mr. Stanley Perkins
Mr. & Mrs. Aubry Hays
Mrs. Evelyn Phillips
Mrs. Eva Walker

Mrs. Pittman
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J. W. Posey
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Rayburn
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Mr. Frank Reid
Mrs. Ruby J. Pugh
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Brooksville
Mrs. Amanda Rivers
Mrs. Dorothy W. Shaw
Mrs. Inez Roach
TEL S.S. Class, FBC,
Indianola
John Roberts
Siloam Baptist Church
Mr. P. W. Roberts
Men's Class #2, Calvary BC
Adult 6
R. H. Roberts
Elton & Mildred Rogers
Mrs. Tillie Robicheaux
Mildred and Earle Richard
Mr. Jed Robinson
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Kate Roland
Lucille K. Bell & Children
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Ms. Linda Willard
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Ms. Joan Short
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CHRISTMAS was a joyous time for VILLAGE children and staff because MISSISSIPPIANS demonstrated concern through prayer, personal visits, monetary gifts, special projects, cards, letters and hosting dependent children who had no other place to go for the holidays.

Shown above is one houseparent and Home Life Director, Dr. Fred Lawrence in one of two cottage on the Reedy Acres campus, Water Valley distributing Christmas gifts. Other celebrations were held simultaneously on The India Nunnery Campus, Farrow Manor Campus, Dickerson Place, Deanash and the New Albany Group Home.

Baptist Record

Baptist volunteers train

Sin related to some disasters, says Frank

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist disaster relief workers were told sin is the cause of many disasters. The comment was made during the National Disaster Relief Conference, Dec. 6-8, by Neal Frank of the National Hurricane Weather Service in Miami. The conference was sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission. Mississippi Baptists were among the 100 trainees from 20 states.

Disaster relief, a ministry of Baptist Men, is administered by state Brotherhood departments and coordinated nationally through the Brotherhood Commission.

Frank told conference participants to anticipate more needs for their services in the future, particularly along the U.S. coastline. "The problem with the coastline today is development on little coastal islands," he said.

"We don't have any business on those little islands, but we're there."

The islands and other fragile coastal areas are most susceptible to major hurricane damage, he said. Construction of multi-storied condominiums and seawalls in these areas interrupt the natural formation of dune and beach. When a hurricane comes along, damage can be severe and the potential for loss of life great.

"We not only want to live on the waterfront, we want to live in the water . . . within the highwater mark. When we do, we interrupt the natural laws of God. Humans need to live in harmony with the natural laws, as well as the spiritual laws, of God," said Frank, a Methodist layman.

"As long as we have unregenerate people on the coast with big profits to be made . . . we'll need organizations like yours," he told conference participants.

Ann Metzger of the Memphis State University Earthquake Center discussed earthquake preparedness. "It's possible to save lives through planning," she said. "It's usually 48 to 72 hours before meaningful help can get into an area after a major quake. Families should be prepared for this period."

When most Americans think of earthquakes, they think of the West Coast, she said. But there are other seismically active areas in the United States.

Within the New Madrid seismic zone there are 150 to 200 earthquakes a year.

Most never are felt. This zone is in the center of the United States, running from a point about 50 miles west of Memphis, Tenn., northeast to the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers.

The danger from this active zone is that bedrock underlying the area transmits shock waves a great distance. Damage was reported from a major quake centered in southeastern Missouri in 1811 as far away Virginia to the east, Lake Michigan to the north, Texas to the west and Louisiana to the south. Paducah, Ky., is the only city in the area to date that has a seismic building code.

Manager of year fired

SUPERIOR, Wis. (EP) — Dean Krych, named manager of the year in 1980 and 1982 for his work with a 7-Eleven store, was fired Dec. 1 for refusing to sell Playboy and Penthouse magazines in the store he manages for the Denver-based Wymodak Corporation. Because the stores are franchised, rather than owned by the Southland Corporation (parent of 7-Eleven), Wymodak stores are not affected by 7-Eleven's decision to remove pornography from its area stores.

Pelahatchie youths hold Christmas party

The youth of Pelahatchie Church raised more than \$400 in their first Christmas Pilgrimage, a tour of six homes in Pelahatchie. On Dec. 22, these young people gathered at the church and made a party for the children who spent Christmas at the Baptist Hospital in Jackson.

Many toys were purchased for use in the Pediatric Unit Playroom and a "Christmas Happy" was made for the children. The youth also made party foods. When everything was ready, 21 youths and sponsors were greeted in Jackson by Bernard the puppet and friend, Diana Chiles.

Bernard was "green" with excitement over the gifts the young people had brought to gladden the hearts of the children that pass through that ward. Everyone enjoyed a time of opening gifts, eating, caroling, and watching Bernard as he prepared to undergo surgery. Barry C. Corbett is pastor and Tim Pierce is minister of music and youth.



Somewhere under hardened mud and debris are the bodies named on these markers, bodies of a few of the estimated 24,000 Colombians who perished when a mudslide destroyed the town of Armero on the slope of a volcano in the Andes Mountains. Efforts by Southern Baptist missionaries and Col-

ombian Baptists to help survivors commenced within hours of the tragedy of Nov. 13, 1985. Such efforts continue today, including medical and dental care and a mission church to tell survivors of the hope of the gospel. (BP) PHOTO By Richard Rolfe

A letter would help

Mudslide victims need continued encouragement

By Art Toalston

IBAGUE, Colombia (BP) — Simple letters of encouragement would mean much to survivors of the massive mudslide that buried the town of Armero, Colombia, last year.

Most of the 5,000 survivors are living in tents at the small village of Lerida, near Armero.

Colombian Baptist social worker Lidia Kelly has asked Baptists in the United States to spend a few moments to write to Armero survivors, particularly to encourage those without faith to "go ahead and get to know the Lord."

In a telephone interview, Kelly said each letter "will tell them that someone who is far away is thinking about them. I think this can be a great help."

Kelly works at the Center of Hope, a Baptist ministry to several dozen mudslide survivors who have settled in Ibague, a city 70 miles from Armero.

The Center of Hope will be the distribution point for letters of Christian love. Its address is Box 1235, Ibague, Tolima, Colombia.

Write:
City of Hope
Box 1235
Ibague, Tolima, Colombia
The intensity of trauma and grief

has lessened somewhat in recent months among the survivors. By official estimates, they lost 24,000 of their relatives and friends in the volcano-triggered mudslide of November 1985.

Many survivors are former agricultural workers now without a means of income.

Last summer, many survivors still did not believe so many of their family members and friends had died, said Richard Rolfe, a missionary evangelist based in Ibague.

"They didn't see them die," Rolfe said. "Secretly they were hoping they had gotten out and were alive somewhere else." That hope was fueled by false rumors that some of the injured had been taken to other countries for medical care.

A one-year anniversary observance at the hardened-mud-and-debris site of Armero drew not just survivors but thousands of Colombians on Nov. 13. "It helped a lot of people finally bury the past," Rolfe said. "Armero has become a graveyard. There are grave markers all over. A lot of them are made of concrete and stone." He added no efforts are planned to rebuild the once-thriving agricultural town.

"Each tent (in Lerida) contains all that is left of each family unit," Rolfe

said. "Sometimes the father or mother is missing. Often one or more of the children are gone. In one tent, a 60-year-old grandmother lives with her three small grandchildren. Her main concern was that she will not live long enough to care for the children, 'and then who will care for them?'"

Southern Baptist world hunger funds will help feed a number of elderly adults in Lerida as well as young orphans, he added.

Lerida's water supply and its schools cannot handle the influx of Armero survivors, and these needs may lead to ministry opportunities, the missionary said. The village also needs a Baptist pastor, "somebody stable to build the work around."

Also working with Kelly at the center are fellow Colombian Baptists Rafael and Mary Blanco. While Kelly leads a women's Bible study each Friday and handles children's work, the Blancos are leading a blossoming mission and assisting about 15 amputees in visits to a prosthetist. Forty to 60 people attend the mission's Sunday services, and 70 to 80 come on Thursdays.

The mission, Kelly said, has the makings of "a great church."

Art Toalston writes for the FMB.

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